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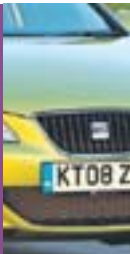
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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 58
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October 15, 2008

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FAITH IN TESTING TIMES

Church leaders say they expect to see people turn to their Christian faith as the on-set of winter looks likely to bring an icy chill in our spending habits.

With the global financial system on the verge of meltdown congregations are set to swell across the borough as worshippers seek a little divine inspiration.

BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

CHURCH leaders say they expect congregations to rise due to the ongoing financial crisis as folk seek divine inspiration to help them through their troubles.

The rising cost of living and the effects of the credit crunch are expected to see people turn to spiritual guidance for help through these difficult times.

It comes as the Church of England revealed visits to its website have rocketed during the current financial meltdown which threatens the world's economy.

The site said it had more than 8,000 visitors sending a 'virtual prayer' asking God to help ease the crisis, while those checking out its debt advice page had increased by more than 70 per cent in recent weeks.

But though people may be seeking the Almighty online, many say they expect to see visits to local religious centres rise too as the crunch begins to bite.

And church leaders in and around Faversham say they are bracing themselves for a surge in their congregations in the run-up to Christmas.

The Rev Tony Oehring, of St Mary of Charity parish church, told Yoursware: "I think it is a question of watch this space. Any crisis in life is usually a time for us to reflect on our priorities."

"I am not sure many really know what effect all this might have in the longer run."

"A reality check was necessary in the financial industry and the banks - and to some extent government has ridden the wave."

"But I guess as 'people in the street' we are yet to see the effects this might have on pensions, tax, interest rates, employment, retail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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DISH OF THE DAY: The Great Sunday Lunch will be held by Age Concern all over the country

Tuck-in will help Age Concern to raise awareness

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

EVERYONE likes a good roast and this weekend is your chance to take part in the biggest Sunday lunch ever.

Modelled after the famous Macmillan Coffee Mornings, Age Concern's Great Sunday Lunch will see people across the country sitting down to lunch with friends and family to raise money for the charity.

Age Concern spokesman Gill Ball said: "The Great Sunday Lunch is a fun event that will raise vital funds for our work with older people.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people to get together with older relatives and friends who usually eat Sunday lunch alone.

"The sense of isolation experienced by older people can be particularly acute at a time when family members traditionally spend time with each other."

Both Faversham and Teynham Age Concern centres will be hosting the Great Sunday Lunch this weekend.

Age Concern Faversham will be holding their lunch from 2-3pm and are able to seat 50 people.

Age Concern Teynham will be serving their lunch from 1-2pm, again for up to 50 people.

Both centres will hold raffles on the day and there will be musical entertainment as well.

Lunch will cost £6.50 for three

courses plus a glass of wine. A choice of menu will be available and there will also be a vegetarian option.

Mrs Ball said: "Sunday lunch is often the most socially significant event of the week, where millions of people gather with friends and family to catch up, relax, have fun, make plans. Sunday lunch is about communication and getting together.

"Sadly, this doesn't apply to everyone. Older people are particularly likely to be isolated; one in ten over-65s live with constant or near-constant loneliness. More than 20 per cent of over-80s live alone and almost one in five pensioners live in poverty."

Tickets for Age Concern Faversham can be bought from The Forget-Me-Not Centre, 2 Middle Row, Faversham ME13 7AJ and by calling 01795 532766.

Tickets for Age Concern Teynham are available from The Belle Friday Centre, London Road, Teynham ME9 9QH and by calling 01795 521052.

• Turn to page four for the latest charity profile in our Make the Difference campaign where we urge our kind-hearted readers to spend just a few hours a week to help volunteer at a local charity to help some of the borough's most disadvantaged folk.

'It has not really bit properly yet' says Rev

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and world trade and so on – things that might affect our daily lives in the longer run."

Rev Arthur Skinner of St Laurence Church in Leaveland said while his congregation has remained steady for now he feared it was only a matter of time before the credit crunch "had time to bite".

He said: "Sometimes the number of people at church rises, but it has not really bit properly yet, it's only when people start receiving their energy bills that you would start to notice."

• How is the credit crunch impacting on your daily life? Are you feeling the squeeze? Let us know the effect the global crisis is having on you. Email: yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, Yoursware, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Nr Ashford, Kent TN 25 6SR.

Students get chance to chat-up politicians

POLITICAL speed dating is to make a return to Faversham this year as part of Swale council's Local Democracy Week.

Today students from Abbey and Queen Elizabeth schools will be able to quiz Swale leader Andrew Bowles and other councillors, in the conference room of Abbey School.

Others to make an appearance include the executive for learning and skills Mike Cosgrove, executive for the environment Cindy Davis, Mayor of Swale Alan Willicombe and councillors Ben Stokes, Mike Henderson and Mark Baldock.

In political speed dating, students have three minutes to ask the councillor questions and score them on their approachability, listening skills, understanding and question answering.

At the end of the three minutes each councillor will move onto the next table and continues until all students have questioned each one.

At the end scorecards are collected and entered onto a chart to reveal the most popular councillor who is then presented with a small prize.

Local Democracy Week runs until Sunday.

ATM fits in with area

A CASH machine is to be fitted in Preston Street after council officers said it would not spoil the area.

An earlier application was refused when it included an illuminated fascia sign, CCTV camera, an external light, a litter bin and painted privacy area which would have caused harm to the appearance of the conservation area, according to a council report.

The ATM is to be fitted into the front window of Martins newsagents with a stainless steel surround.



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Credit crunch leads to drop in profits at Sheps

UK's oldest brewer feels the squeeze

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

TOUGH market conditions including the smoking ban, a wet summer and the credit crunch are to blame for a fall in Shepherd Neame's profits this year.

Britain's oldest brewer and one of the town's biggest employers, established in the town since 1698, announced pre-tax profits of £9.1 million down from £10.5 million last year.

However, turnover was up 1.7 per cent to £101.7 million, helped by export sales boosted by its licensed Japanese lager Asahi Super Dry, which increased by more than 11 per cent.

Chairman Jonathan Neame said the results, up to June 28 this year, proved the company has had to face up to some "very considerable challenges".

He said: "The first year of the smoking ban was always going to be difficult for many pubs but for this to coincide with a very wet summer in 2007, spiralling supply chain costs and a sharp drop in consumer confidence in the second half of the year was unprecedented.

"This has been as difficult a year as anyone in the industry can remember. We have had to



CHALLENGES: Shepherd Neame chairman Jonathan Neame says it has been the most difficult year he can remember

contend with significant cost inflation at a time of weakening demand.

"These conditions are likely to persist into 2009. We remain naturally cautious about the coming year as the precise impact of cost pressures and consumer spending remains uncertain."

The rising price of energy and raw materials such as malt and glass had also squeezed margins at the 300-year old brewery.

Chairman Miles Templeman said: "The difficult economic environment combined with the smoking ban has clearly hurt the national pub trade, but we still achieve good returns with the right management and the right investment.

"It is particularly disappointing the government does not recognise the important social,

cultural and community role of British beer and British pubs and also fails to recognise the economic value of our sector.

"Rather, it sees the industry as a tax collection point on one hand and a social problem on the other."

Jon Howard, a spokesman for consumer group the Campaign for Real Ale said the results were more indicative of a wider problem in the industry.

He said: "Falling profit margins are simply a reflection of what is going on in the pub industry at the moment. Research has shown around a ten per cent decline in pub-going over the past year, with Shepherd Neame's losses in line with this statistic."

Litterbugs facing on-the-spot fine

DROPPING litter in a public place could lead to a fine of £80 and a court appearance warns Swale council.

In the first week of October, enforcement officers issued 15 fixed penalty notices to people caught dropping and leaving litter, such as cigarette butts, in Sittingbourne, Faversham and Sheerness town centres.

A recent survey by Clean Kent, Kent County Council's campaign to combat littering, one key response was that they would like to see more on-the-spot fines for those caught dropping rubbish.

Swale council's environmental response manager, Alistair Andrews, said there is no excuse for dropping litter: "These latest on-the-spot fines send out a clear message to people in Swale that we take matters such as this very seriously.

"Most people find this kind of mess revolting, so if we have to resort to enforcement and fines, we will.

"People must use the bins provided and take litter home with them, so that we can make Swale a cleaner place for all."

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Relive the food festival with Julie Maddocks. Search 'food'

Cops hail carnival a big success

THIS year's Faversham Carnival was enjoyed by all, including the police, who didn't have to make a single arrest.

There were also no reports of assaults or criminal damage in the town centre on Saturday evening, and officers have hailed the policing of the event a total success.

Thousands took to the streets to enjoy the event, which included a procession which went twice round a shorter circular route, devised to reduce policing costs.

Similarly there was no fair following the introduction of charges for policing events earlier this year.

Officers and Police Community Support Officers did confiscate a small amount of alcohol from under-age youths and will be sending letters to parents, warning them about their children's behaviour.

Inspector Kevin Swinney, who oversaw the police presence at the event, said: "We are very pleased that people were able to enjoy the event on Saturday and that the event was crime-free. We worked hard to ensure no problems."

Warning to watch speed while town road is resurfaced

WORK begins tomorrow on resurfacing Park Road, potentially causing delays to drivers on their way into Faversham town centre.

Kent Highways are warning drivers to keep their speed to a minimum while they carry out resurfacing work on the carriage-way, between the junction of Chapel Street and East Street, followed by the replacement of all road markings.

The street was highlighted by the agency as in need of repair after it was identified as being "below an acceptable condition" and earmarked for essential resurfacing.

The road will be temporarily closed while the works are carried out, between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm tomorrow, Friday and Monday, restricting access.

Kent County Council have also asked the area be free of all cars and

for drivers who live along Park Road to leave their vehicles elsewhere while the works are taking place. Failure to do so could result in the resurfacing being cancelled.

A Kent Highways spokesman said: "Feedback from our workers shows that too many drivers go too fast through road works. Everyone is entitled to a safe workplace. Our men and women work next to moving traffic and risk injury every day."

Drivers are also warned to be aware of bogus callers claiming to be from Kent Highways who want to carry out work on private properties. Anyone who says they are working for the agency or its specialist contractors and offering to carry out any work for cash should be treated with caution.

To check call KCC Trading Standards' 24-hour helpline on 0845 3450210.

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Children on to a winner
with a portrait of mayor**

YOUNGSTERS can win creative goodies by painting or drawing a portrait of the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Carolyn Parry.

The competition, which ends this Friday, is open to all five to 11-year-olds living in the district. For inspiration, an image of Cllr Parry is on the council's children and youth website at www.notbored.net/democracy, along with more information.

Entries should be sent to Nicky Gould, Community Development, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

**Unique leasehold option
sure to pull the buyers in**

THE leasehold for city centre pub the Beer Cart Arms is up for sale for £35,000.

The money will buy a 24-year leasehold, a system unique to the pub industry where the tenant pays a one-off sum for the business while the pub owners retain ownership of the bricks and mortar.

If the Beer Cart Lane business, which has an annual net turnover of £321,000, improves the leasehold can then be sold on for more money.

The sale is handled by Fleurets.

**From Albert to Kings Hall
for a night at the proms**

IT'S being billed as 'the last night of the Proms comes to Herne Bay' – and it is hoped the crowds will join in just like the Royal Albert Hall spectacular come November 8.

That's when the Herne Bay Rotary Club Proms Evening will be staged in aid of local charities at the Kings Hall.

A host of performers will entertain the audience before the likes of Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory finish off the evening in rousing fashion. Tickets are £12.50 each available from the venue.

**Four-day event focusing
on equality and diversity**

CANTERBURY College will be buzzing to the sound of African drums next week as it hosts the second Fair for All event celebrating equality and diversity.

The four-day event includes stalls selling Fair Trade products made from recycled materials, produced by local people with learning disabilities, as well as international sources. Visitors will also be treated to displays, interactive workshops and food from the college's students.

Fair for All will run from October 20-23.

Raising both cash and hope for a generation

This month we launched our Make The Difference campaign – urging our readers to give their valuable time to help disadvantaged groups across our area by volunteering for charity. This week we examine another organisation and how you could help...

■ BY YOURCAMPAIGN TEAM

WITH 85 per cent of the NSPCC's income stemming from community fundraisers, the closure of several groups in east Kent due to lack of volunteers is a serious blow for the charity.

The NSPCC provides a range of services for children, including the vital ChildLine telephone service, which can be a lifeline for youngsters who need someone to talk to in confidence.

Spokesman Anna Kier said: "The last few years has seen a gradual drop in volunteers.

"Many of our helpers have supported the NSPCC for decades, but as they have got older, there has been a lack of younger volunteers replacing them. This has caused many of our groups to become inactive.

"For example, the east Kent and Canterbury area, in the past, had many active fundraising groups, including, Faversham, Herne Bay, Canterbury, Barham, Whitstable, and Adisham and Ickham.

"Many of these groups are no longer active. Currently we only have two active groups – Herne Bay and Canterbury."

Swale has been particularly badly hit, with just one group in Sittingbourne representing the NSPCC in the borough. But even this is hard-pushed due to lack of new recruits.

Mrs Kier said: "Swale branch is severely lack-

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

ing in volunteers. In the past there were more than 15 different fundraising groups in the area, including a group on the Isle of Sheppey, but this has now decreased dramatically to just three. There is only one group in Swale, Sittingbourne, and they are in desperate need of extra support."

But there is some good news too. A new group set up just six months ago in Canterbury by Max Tillings and Katie Roach has already raised £10,000.

Mrs Kier said: "Their achievements have been exceptional and are inspirational for anyone who is interested in fundraising."

ChildLine, now part of the NSPCC, also relies on volunteers to take calls, but the charity is based at centres in London, Scotland and the north and west of England, with none in Kent.

To volunteer for the NSPCC, contact the South East office on 01293 651840 or email southeastappeals@nspcc.org.uk

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Festival the real winner as readers judge the Booker Prize shortlist

LITERATURE'S leading lights met in London last night to unveil the winner of this year's Man Booker Prize – and linking up live with the event was a special panel from the Canterbury Festival.

One of the highlights of the two-week festival, six local writers championed each of the six short-listed books at three special book clubs – and then last night made their own decision as to who they believed should scoop the top prize.

People could vote for the book they believed

worthy of the prize as the panel made its judgement on the shortlist.

And you can see for yourself what was involved in the process by logging on to our free, broadband TV website www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Presenter Julie Maddocks went to speak to those behind the project and find out what went in to the event.

The book clubs then linked live with the final in London last night when the winner was announced – after we went to press.

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TOP GEAR: Russell Gomm, director of *Dark Roads*, receives the award for best film from judge Valerie Ellis

Light shines on 'dynamic' Dark movie victor

DARK Roads, a brooding thriller shot in Herne Bay, has picked up the top award at the Kent Film Festival.

The movie, a suspenseful revenge thriller by Herne Bay director Russell Gomm and his team, was awarded The Barclays Trophy for Best Film, much to the surprise of its creator.

Mr Gomm said: "It's quite a traditional festival, but I thought I'd send it in anyway, even though I was expecting the judges to hate it. But I knew the photography was good so I thought we might be in with a chance of an award for that."

"I wasn't even in the room when it was screened. The film has got violence and swearing in it and I thought they would hate it."

"When the winners were read out, they do it in reverse order. There are loads, best actor, best script, best sound etcetera. As each one came up I thought 'we might win this one'."

"But when best photography was read out I thought 'well that's it'."

"But then they read out the best film and they said 'number nine, Dark Roads'. I couldn't believe it. I just sat there with my mouth open and my mum had to push me to get up and go to the stage."

Dark Roads enjoyed universal acclaim from the judges who praised practically every aspect of the production from

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

sound to stunt work.

Describing the film, judge Valerie Ellis said: "Wow! What a dynamic, challenging and beautifully made movie. The picture quality, the creative use of sound, the sure direction and the acting made it a very exciting movie."

Fellow judge, Graham Evans, said: "A clever plot, magnificent production values, technically brilliant camera sequences and lighting. Superb shots from the side of fast-moving vehicles."

The Kent Film Festival was held recently at the Powell Theatre at Canterbury Christ Church University and featured 46 films from animations to documentaries.

Dark Roads will now be entered into the IAC British International Amateur Film Festival.

Mr Gomm's production company Aurora Pictures Ltd is made up of local talent including producer Tiffany Sonnex, co-writer and assistant director Adam Modley, cinematographer Tom Hitchmough and sound producer Andrew Ridgeway.

The film premiered at a private screening at the Odeon cinema in Canterbury on March 18.

For more information, or to order a copy of Dark Roads, visit www.aurorapictures.net.

• Email yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

Trailer takes mystery trip along Dark Roads

GET a taste of Dark Roads by viewing the film's trailer on our free, broadband TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

The film is based on an idea conceived a few years ago by director Russell Gomm.

Dark Roads is a tense revenge thriller, whose complex plot switches between two time frames, leaving it to the viewer to work out the secret behind the action.

The action was shot in and around Herne Bay, and features many landmarks, not to mention local actors and crew. Search for 'dark'.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Harbour's future is under discussion at public talk

WHITSTABLE Harbour Board stages its annual public meeting tomorrow night – and is urging anyone interested to attend.

The harbour is one of the town's key tourist attractions and has been at the centre of much controversy in recent years over plans for its redevelopment.

The free meeting takes place at the St Alphege School in the High Street, and gets under way at 7.30pm.

It will present its annual review for the last 12 months, examine the financial figures and discuss other findings within it.

However, of most interest will be plans for future development and the harbour board's work on formulating a long-term strategic plan. After extensive consultation with local groups it says it hopes to have the plan complete by the end of the year.

Michael Dixey, the board's chairman, said: "The task of further developing the harbour, regenerating under-utilised areas and buildings and achieving long-term financial self-sufficiency is not an easy one."

Development team ready to hear youths' Hot Topix

YOUNG people will be able to discuss ideas with Canterbury's youth development team at the district's annual youth conference this weekend.

The events are open to young people aged between 11-17 from across the district and there are 60 places available on both days.

They are free, but booking is essential. The event, Hot Topix, takes place at AMF Bowling in Whitstable on Saturday and Sunday, October 18-19.

For further details contact Nicky Gould on 01227 862125 or email nicky.gould@canterbury.gov.uk.

A separate conference for young people with disabilities and special needs, is on October 26. Contact Carrie Wood on 01227 367555 or email info@snaap.org.uk.

Smartie's such a sweet cat

A SIX-toed cat is searching for her owners or a new home if no one comes forward.

Smartie, as she has been named by Canterbury Cats Protection, turned up in a garden in Oakdale Road, Herne Bay a few weeks ago, obviously lost.

If you recognise Smartie, or would like to offer her a new home call the local lost and found line on 05602 965182.



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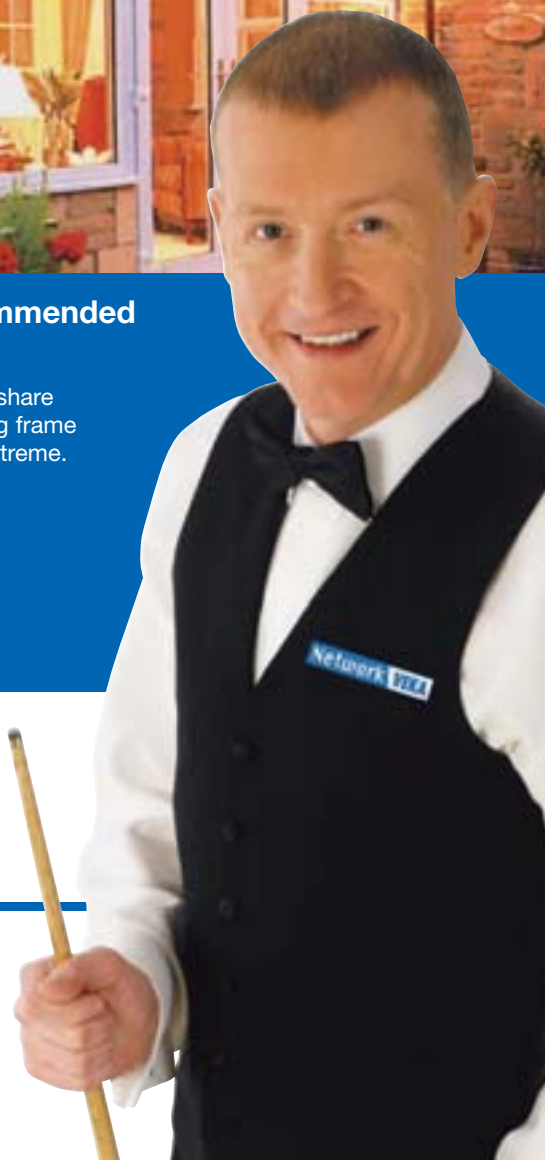
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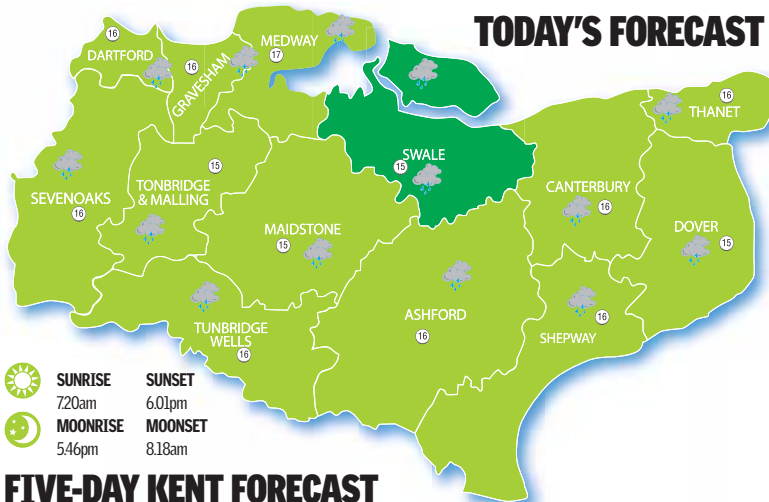
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Location	Day	Time	Height
Chatham	Saturday	2:16pm	6.3m
	Sunday	2:57pm	6.4m
Dover	Saturday	12:24pm	7.0m
	Sunday	1:03pm	7.0m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:36pm	8.3m
	Sunday	1:15pm	8.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:54pm	5.4m
	Sunday	1:33pm	5.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:06pm	6.0m
	Sunday	2:47pm	6.0m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:06pm	5.4m
	Sunday	2:49pm	5.5m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Amsterdam	19°C	Madrid	18°C
Athens	22°C	New York	18°C
Barcelona	22°C	Paris	24°C
Beijing	21°C	Rome	23°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	30°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	21°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	13°C
Hong Kong	27°C	Warsaw	15°C
Las Palmas	24°C	Wellington	17°C

SUNRISE
7:20am

SUNSET
6:01pm

MOONRISE
5:46pm

MOONSET
8:18am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	17°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Gravesend	17°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	15°C
Canterbury	16°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Maidstone	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Chatham	16°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Ramsgate	16°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	14°C
Dartford	17°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	15°C	Rochester	16°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C
Dover	15°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Sevenoaks	15°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	13°C
Faversham	16°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Sittingbourne	16°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C
Folkestone	15°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Tonbridge	16°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	14°C
Gillingham	16°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Tun Wells	16°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	14°C

Cousins' support for big hospice art sale

ORIGINAL art, sculpture and ceramics will be the main attractions of an auction taking place to raise money for Demelza children's hospice next month.

The Bobbing-based charity is hosting its annual Art and Soul fundraiser, which this year features a mix of 31 pieces of art and ceramics from the likes of Mary Fedden, Antony Gormley and Maggi Hambling.

The auction comes after a five-day exhibition of the items at the Rhapsody Gallery, in the Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, and is being supported by Olympic gold figure skater, singer and artist Robin Cousins.

He said: "I appreciate the passion and care that goes into every performance and canvas, that same passion and care is at the heart of Demelza hospice care."

Huge choice

The exhibition and auction will cover every art type. Other well-known names in the line-up include portraiture artist Gemma Harwood and outstanding ceramicist Louise Bassant.

Nicola Toms also features her stunning Wildebeest along with Sandy Dooley's inspirational Autumn oil on canvas.

The exhibition runs from November 7-12 and the auction takes place at the Hotel du Vin, Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, November 13. A champagne preview is at 6.30pm followed by the auction at 8.30pm.

For further details including on how to make absentee bids, contact Demelza on 01795 845288 or visit www.demelza.org.uk.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

DR PAUL WILKINSON



Q & A

Q Tell me a little bit about yourself?

A I run the Kent Archaeological Field School, based in a wonderful converted oast house just outside Faversham.

The school has now been running for ten years and has over 700 members. We aim to bring the opportunity of participating in archaeology to the general public and in this we have been very successful.

Each year we focus on a site under threat of destruction and excavate it to the highest standards. Our work has been recognised by some as the most important amateur work taking place in Kent today, we have even had Channel 4's Time Team making a programme about our work at Syndale Park.

Q What first interested you in archaeology?

A I first became interested as a very small boy watching Mortimer Wheeler excavating part of St Albans, he took the time to spend half an hour with me explaining what he was doing and how important it was. I was hooked.

Q What is your favourite or preferred aspect of archaeology?

A It has to be Roman archaeology – I was given a post-graduate scholarship to Rome by the Royal Society of Arts because I had just obtained First Class Honours in my first degree. In Rome I excavated with people who were the giants of their profession – I learnt so much.

Q Where is the most unusual or interesting place you have researched?

A I have just returned from excavating at Pompeii, I was invited by one of the large American universities to head up their excavation team – it was terrific – and I get to go back next year.

Q Have you explored or made any interesting discoveries in the local area recently?

A This May I took archaeological students and members of the KAFS to a farm, just to the west of Faversham, adjacent to Watling Street, to investigate the probable site of a Roman villa found by field-walking and test-pitting.

Our first evaluation trench exposed a cornucopia of archaeological features which included the concrete base of a large corn mill, a sunken road, Anglo-Saxon buildings and the remains of a massive stone-built Roman bath house.

Some rooms had underfloor heating, with alcoves containing hot plunge baths. The excavated base of a rectangular pillar suggests the bath house was arcaded. This elaborate and exotic building has its roots in buildings built in Rome by Constantine as Christian baptisteries in the 4th century.

Q What do you hope you and the school can achieve in future?

A We will continue to open the eyes of the archaeological students who are sent to us

by universities – over 500 students come to us, and to enable the general public to participate in real-time archaeology.

Q What do you think of the cultural and artistic life of Swale?

A It is a wonderful place to work – Swale people have helped and supported the field school for the last ten years – without them it would never have happened.

Next month we begin to excavate a Roman building which is probably a theatre – one of the very few found in Roman Britain, and again located here in Swale.

Q Where can people find out more about you and your work?

A See our website www.kafs.co.uk, or our commercial archaeology site, www.swatarchaeology.com.

Q What do you like to do when you're not working?

A I like to go for a long-distance walk with my wife for at least a week, because I find it is the only way to get to know the land and its people.

Q Tell us something that people don't tend to know about you.

A I came late to archaeology and in another life I was a graphic designer – so next time you look at the CD of Sergeant Pepper you will see I designed it.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, director of the Kent Field School of Archaeology in Faversham, spoke to James Alexandre about his work in the field, excavating at Pompeii and his previous life with a lonely hearts club band

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Some of the incredible work done with sick children at Demelza Hospice Care for Children. Search 'demelza'



See how the Canterbury Festival celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Booker Prize. Search 'booker'



Anti-terrorism operation called Exercise Border Fist for police and the Army held last week. Search 'bomb'



How do teenagers benefit from the new pre-pay credit card? We ask Matt, aged 17. Search 'card'



John McAllister from the Kent Wildlife Trust talks about the release of a family of beavers into the wild. Search 'beaver'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Deep-clean to take fight to superbugs

Six hospitals to be scrubbed and disinfected

BY JENNA PUDELEK

HEALTH bosses have announced the launch of a deep-cleaning programme at six community hospitals as the battle against superbugs continues.

NHS West Kent said Hawkhurst hospital near Cranbrook would be first, with every wall, ceiling fitting and bed in each ward and clinical area being scrubbed and disinfected.

Karen Jefferies, the Primary Care Trust's deputy director for community services, said: "Tackling healthcare-associated infections is a key priority for our hotel services staff and the community hospital clinical staff.

"We aim to provide complete assurance to our patients, their families and our staff that we take the cleanliness of our hospitals seriously."

The PCT reopened Livingstone Hospital in Dartford last week after it was given a major deep-clean following the death of a patient during an outbreak of Clostridium difficile.

Community hospitals are particularly susceptible to infections like C-diff and Novovirus, also known as winter vomiting disease.

KOS Media's Hand Hygiene campaign has seen the award-winning publishers working alongside the NHS in Kent to highlight the importance of washing your hands regularly and using the alcohol provided in hospitals and healthcare centres.

Basic hand hygiene at home, work and in healthcare settings is one of the simplest ways to help in the battle against killer superbugs such as MRSA and C diff.



The deep-cleaning programme is part of a national initiative which will be completed in hospitals across the country by March 31.

Following a trial at Livingstone, the PCT said that MRSA-resistant disposable curtains, which are also flame-retardant, would be fitted around beds in all its community hospitals.

The 22-bed Hawkhurst hospital specialises in active rehabilitation for adults recovering from illness or injury and the PCT said the deep-clean would cause minimum disruption to patients.

Livingstone Hospital, Tonbridge Cottage Hospital, Edenbridge and District War Memorial Hospital and Sevenoaks Hospital will be deep-cleaned as part of the autumn initiative.

Gravesend Community Hospital will be cleaned early in the New Year.

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Wash your hands free of infection

GO ONLINE to see details of the KOS Media-NHS campaign to get everyone used to washing their hands properly.

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Go to Yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'wash'.



REVIVAL: Partridge numbers have increased

Wing your way to partridge talk

A MEETING for partridge buffs is being held this month to celebrate the success of an environmental group in ensuring their protection in the wild.

The species has increased its numbers by 11 times over the past five years and is now thriving.

Farmers, landowners and gamekeepers have all helped to protect this bird, which has suffered in recent years due to loss of habitat and changes in farming methods.

Pater Thompson of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust said: "The group has received huge support in its efforts to ensure a future for this iconic bird."

"Grey partridges, like many other farmland birds, have suffered decades of catastrophic decline."

The meeting is on Thursday, October 23, at Squerries Court, Westerham. It starts at 7pm and cost of attendance is £13.

The theme of the event is how best to manage land to protect the grey partridge. Winter feeding, habitat and predator control are also to be discussed.

And to promote the conservation of the species, a trophy is to be presented to the landowner, farm or estate manager who has done most to assist its recovery.

To book a place, phone 01425 651013.

Black history celebrated

THIS month the county hosts a number of exhibitions and events to celebrate Black History Month

More than 50 events are taking place right across the county, organised by community groups, Kent County Council, Kent Police and the Unite staff group.

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Have a go Joe is back on the road to pantomime

BY JANE CONNOLLY

COMEDIAN Joe Pasquale certainly knows how to get people laughing, but now he wants to make audiences boo and hiss as well.

Currently in familiar territory with his stand-up show *Back On The Road*, which visits Chatham's Central Theatre on November 8, the I'm A Celebrity winner faces a new challenge when he becomes a director for the first time.

Pasquale will be in charge of *Peter Pan* at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford this Christmas, directing the action while also starring as Captain Hook's bumbling sidekick, Smee.

"I feel very confident because I've got a good team around me," he said, when asked about the challenges ahead. "They are all great people who I knew already."

Rehearsals start at the end of November and casting has already been completed. Choosing actors to play such well-known characters was an important task, but the seasoned performer could sympathise with any nervous candidates.

"If you haven't been in their position as a performer, you don't know what it's like," Pasquale said.

"It's an advantage for me. I've been through



JOE PUBLIC: Pasquale will direct and star in *Peter Pan*

auditions, whereas many directors haven't."

Pasquale is particularly happy with the young performers who have been chosen to play the *Lost Boys* and other juvenile roles. The rising stars are all students at the Liz Burville

Performing Arts Centre in Bexley and Pasquale was full of praise for their talents, describing this year's group as "exceptional".

With 24 years' experience of performing in panto, Pasquale is looking forward to making his mark and creating an unforgettable experience for his audiences.

"It's a different medium to anything else," he said. "With panto, I can rehearse for weeks but there's still a cast member missing – the audience. There's no reaction."

"Until you get in front of an audience, it doesn't make sense. I love panto for the joy of it and it's often the first introduction to theatre for kids. It gives you a feeling of responsibility because if they have a bad experience, they won't come back."

Pasquale has recently been linked to remakes of classic '70s children's TV shows *Rentaghost* and *Worzel Gummidge*.

He produced and co-wrote a hit stage version of *Rentaghost* last year and would be a popular choice to take on the role of jester Mr Claypole.

The squeaky-voiced comic has also been reported in the national press as being in line to take the lead role of *Worzel Gummidge*, the walking, talking scarecrow made famous by former Doctor Who Jon Pertwee. *Peter Pan* runs at the Orchard Theatre from December 5 to January 11. To book call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

'People are happy with our police'

A CONFERENCE held by Kent Police Authority to canvass views on how the police should be made more accountable to the public found people are largely satisfied already.

The meeting followed the Home Office review of policing led by Sir Ronnie Flanagan and Government discussions which included proposals to give local people a chance to have their say in who oversees policing.

The conference, at the Ramada Hotel in Maidstone, asked representatives of Kent Police, NHS, the prison service and Kent Fire and Rescue for their views and opinions on directly elected police authorities.

A survey was also carried out and findings included:

- Seventy-seven per cent agreed the current structure of an authority made up of councillors and local people is effective;
- Seventy-six per cent disagreed with the proposed new structure;
- Fifty per cent called for more local councillors than local people;
- Eighty per cent thought the new proposed structure would be a risk to policing in Kent and Medway.

Ann Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority, said: "Policing has undergone many changes over the years and we wanted to hear fresh ideas."

"I am pleased people feel the current set up is the right mix of people."

"From our point of view it is really important that we have a balance on the authority."

"We need to avoid party politics to make sure that budgets and priorities are set fairly. We will be feeding back our research to the Home Office."

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Getting the online safety message across with new DVD

A SPECIALLY created DVD offering advice to help keep children safe while using social networking sites such as Facebook has been launched.

Funded by Kent Police and Kent County Council, the e-safety DVD is the first in a series created by young people.

It will be distributed, along with teaching material to support its aims and objectives, to schools across the county. The DVD was

launched at the fourth e-safety conference to be held at Kent Police College, run by KCC.

Students from Kent Safe Schools and Medway Youth Parliament, who sit on the Kent and Medway Young People's Safety Forum, created the idea of the DVD and worked with members of the county's e-safety group to create it.

The forum includes representatives from KCC, Kent Police, schools, Kent Youth County

Council and Medway Youth Parliament.

Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas said: "Offering advice and guidance to children on how to stay safe online is sometimes met with resistance and maybe seen as adults 'telling them what to do'."

"Be safe – e-safe has been produced by children for children with the hope it will break that barrier and help to deliver the messages on how to stay safe on the internet."

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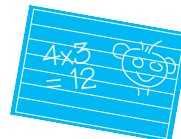
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Young artists among finest in the country



CREATIVE: (l-r) Ryan Hall and Tom Nappey reviewing some of the work that helped them to their top A* grades

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

TWO creative Borden Grammar School pupils have been named among the best art students in the country.

Ryan Hall, 17, of Rainham and Tom Nappey, 16, from Sittingbourne, achieved marks that put them both among the top ten highest achievers in the Edexcel art and design GCSE, out of a total of 36,294 candidates.

Edexcel is the UK's largest examining and awards body, and released a list of the best performing students in the country this week.

Art teacher Jenny Milne, who taught both boys throughout the two year course, is delighted with their success.

She said: "They really deserved to do well, they both put in a huge amount of work. They also worked well together, sparking ideas off each other, which was another reason for their success."

The boys themselves were pleased but also surprised to hear they had reached the top ten rankings. Ryan attributes his success to being given the chance to explore his own ideas and interests in his work.

He said: "The reason we did so well was that we had such freedom to be creative."

A principal focus of his work was land-

scapes and his final exam piece was a very large cityscape in red, yellow and orange inks.

Tom's particular passion was for working in pastels, blending images to achieve effects. He preferred to work on a smaller scale to Ryan and his final piece was a riot scene in acrylics.

He said: "The course was very diverse and we were able to develop our ideas in directions we chose."

They were among Borden's pupils who enjoyed another successful year with their results, with 23 students gaining seven or more A*s and A's this summer.

Ninety-seven per cent achieved the five A* - C marker, with 96 per cent of these including English and maths.

Jerry Jarvis, Edexcel's managing director, said: "This is a tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work students put into preparing for their exams. We send our congratulations to Ryan and Tom."

Headteacher Harold Vafeas said: "There were many significant individual achievements as a number of boys who found particular subjects demanding came through with successes as a result of hard work, particularly during the latter part of year 11, with the skilled and unflagging support of their teachers."

Tom has stayed on at the Avenue of Remembrance school to do his A levels, but Ryan has left and joined the sixth form of Rainham Mark School in his home town.

BREAK TIME

Parents get chance to learn again

THE Westlands School in Sittingbourne has launched a new scheme to let parents see what their children are taught in class.

The 'Family Learning' program gives mothers and fathers the chance to go back to education and take on a new challenge while helping their son or daughter, showing that learning doesn't stop when you leave school.

Five courses are on offer which target areas that parents may not be familiar with because of changes in modern methods or technology, including maths, ICT, construction, English and archery.

Teachers said they have enjoyed an enthusiastic response from learners who think it's a great idea for pupils and parents and helps to encourage links between the school, community and home.

Classes run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and are open to all families of Westland School pupils. While the lessons will be held every week, families can attend one, some or all of the



NEW CHALLENGE: Family Learning program gives parents the chance to boost their skills

lessons offered, which are completely free of charge.

There are also plans to offer extended learning where parents can gain GCSE qualifications in maths and English.

• To find out more go to <http://westlands.org.uk/> and click on the family learning link.

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...



England expects – but we're allowed to jeer

THERE may have not have been much to cheer about during England's latest lacklustre display at Wembley, but there was at least something to boo about – and what a fuss it caused.

Ashley Cole found himself on the end of the jeers after an appalling back-pass let in the mighty Kazakhstan to score. And elements of the Wembley crowd were not best pleased.

After all, this was an England team who just one match before had strolled to a 4-1 victory in Croatia and reignited the hopes of a nation that we were actually quite good at football.

But, as ever, England proved on Saturday they are merely mediocre, limping to victory against a team of part-timers and were flattered by the final 5-1 scoreline.

Yet the headlines on England's performance were shared by those about the booing of Cole and the indignation of his captain and manager immediately after the match.

A "disgrace" they said. "Morons" was how Rio

Ferdinand described those who voiced an opinion. Well, they're right, of course. One miserable back-pass, however useless it may be, does not and should not warrant an immediate backlash from fans.

But this is Ashley Cole, and if there is one tradition in football longer than having a pie at half-time, it is surely that if you pay your money you are entitled to voice an opinion.

Obviously foul racist abuse is never acceptable, but passing comment on a player's form and attitude to the game surely is. Cole is, after all, a player who left former club Arsenal under a cloud after his pursuit of bigger wages led him to Chelsea.

I'm not excusing the booing, but I suspect a certain element of it was based on a general dislike of Cole rather than a mere commentary on his shoddy bit of defensive work which allowed the Kazaks to make us look a bit silly in front of 90,000 fans and a TV audience of millions.

You can make your own mind up as to whether he deserved it. But the bigger point here is surely that England should not expect

constant, unrelenting support regardless of how they perform, either as a group or individually.

These are not amateurs who give up their spare time to showcase their love of football. They are young men paid as much as £100,000 a week to kick a ball about.

What's more, those who attend games pay a handsome sum to do so. Therefore, in exactly the same way we're entitled to slate a film if we pay to see it and it's rubbish, the football fan is – within reason – allowed to voice his displeasure too.

That's how football works. We cheer when they do well and make them heroes. We offer support when we understand if they struggle.

But when you are allegedly the best in the country, playing for your nation in a bid to qualify for the World Cup finals and you are not pulling your weight, well, a few jeers may help to ensure there is no repeat performance.

• **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourswale, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smetheth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for helpful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

FROM ME TO YOU
Tall, leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoys meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 867404

COOK UP A STORM
Turnbridge Wells based lady, brown hair/eyes, 38, I'm a teacher and love theatre, reading, cinema, swimming, travel. Looking for like minded chap for happy times. Box 444923

DON'T PASS ME BY
Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897893

A-STAR LOVE
Bright bubbly curvy female, 38, a teacher, loves reading, travelling, swimming, cooking, WLTN adventurous male to share life and hopefully more with. Turnbridge Wells. Box 444628

JUST CALL MY NAME
39yr old female, enjoys going out and trying new things, cinema, a similar male for friendship. Box 443823

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, curvy, blonde single mum, 38, 5'8", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

LOVELY JOSEPHINE
Passionate and fun-loving 43yr old female, enjoys clubbing, meals out and cooking, WLTN a male to share evenings out with. Box 445225

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

HERE WE ARE
Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

KEEPING COMPANY TOGETHER
Young-looking, South African origin, tall female, 45, long dark hair, seeking caring male, for friendship and hopefully more! Box 444232

MOVING ON FROM FRIENDSHIP
Hi I'm 45, 5'8", large build, blue eyes, non-smoker/driver, devoted life, Mum, seeking male to share life with, walks, beaches and more. Canterbury. Box 440592

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!
44yr old female, blonde hair, 5'6", slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar in life to enjoy life with! Box 436810

HELP ME OPEN UP
Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTN male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

HAPPY TIMES
Vintage, early 60s female, fun and happy, large build, looking for fun and laughter. WLTN tall, slim guy. Box 417175

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal male. Box 445292

SANDY SEEKS DANNY
Slim, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no lies, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trust-worthy, honest man for partnership. Box 445292

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER
Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5'10", long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap. 48-55. Hastings Box 417175

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things. WLTN genuine male, to see what we like! Box 895892

HOPE YOU FIT THE BILL...
Non-smoking Mum with GSOH, 50, 5'10", blue eyes, medium-large build, loves music, gym, going out, travel, seeking down-to-earth, sincere guy. Box 442921

WHITESTABLE WONDERLAND
Hi, I'm Yvette, 50, separated, blonde hair/eyes, size 12, 5'2", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 420180

LAST CHANCE?
Lively, understanding female, 51, large build, WLTN genuine, loving male, 48-58, for lasting, loving relationship. Faversham. Box 395971

LOVING, CARING & HONEST
Hard working single mum, young 44yr old, 5'5", medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTN a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)
Dear-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10", likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

YOUNG AT HEAT
Compassionate, attractive female, 45, 5'10", big build, red hair, blue eyes, NHS, enjoys good food, country pubs, cinema and weekends away, WLTN a similar male. Box 444743

A MOMENT LIKE THIS
Divorced female, 45, loyal, funny, carefree and very romantic, WLTN a faithful and funny guy for a relationship. Box 885366

ANIMAL LOVER?
Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5'11", enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

THE SOUND OF LOVE
Divorced mum, 41, 5'8", medium build, brown hair/eyes, GSOH, likes eating out, bowling, cinema, nights out, seeking like-minded male for friendship first, then maybe more. Box 887416

LOVE AND HUGS REQUIRED
Fun-loving, carefree 42yr old, sports loving, slightly 'mad', lots of love to give, suffering from neglect. Needing TLC and hugs... can you help? Box 887875

YOU COULD BE THE ONE
Attractive young looking 42yr old, size 12, genuine, honest, caring, seeking male who enjoys music, theatre, cinema, walks, loving relationship. Box 444681

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Understanding, caring female, 45, 5'10", medium build, brown hair, likes cinema, animals, music, romantic pubs, seeking male for cuddles, hugs and more. Box 444873

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE
Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5'8", larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTN similar loving male. Box 443642

STROKE MY HAIR
Very young looking female, 53, 5'6", slim, hazel eyes, wicked SOH, loves the coast, sea, country, socialising, seeking fun-loving man for laughter and love. Box 444138

SOPHISTICATED SUE
Sue, 56yr old, 5'10", green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, WLTN a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309

FANCY A RIDE?
Affectionate tactile bubbly woman, young 56, 5'7", blonde, curly, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man. Box 888680

EXTRA! EXTRA!
African lady, 58, likes reading, current affairs and travelling, WLTN an outgoing, fun-loving and honest male to share the rest of my life with. Box 445122

EVERYTHING I DO
Lee, driver, 36yr old, 6'3", dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLTN a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

INDEPENDENT SPIRIT
Seeking fun loving woman, someone outgoing with a GSOH. I'm a male, 38, I travel a lot, and like animals, romantic nights in etc. Box 885406

WHERE THERE'S A WILL...
Will, 38, enjoys rock/punk music, films and travelling, seeking long haired princess to treat well and live happily ever after with. Box 888618

FULL MARKS
Hi I'm Andrew, 38, 6'3", dark hair, blue eyes, hardworking guy, friendly, tactile & outgoing, likes enjoying life, WLTN easygoing female for friendship/relationship. Box 443488

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!
Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTN female, 38-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529

DARK KNIGHT IN SILVER ARMOUR
Tall, silver, handsome guy, fit 49yr old, no lies, own successful business, WLTN attractive, loving, tactile female for loving LTR. Box 887448

EASY TO LOVE
Hello, I'm Stephen, 50, young looking, likes all things in life especially children on the sofa, WLTN an attractive female for a loving relationship. Box 445106

WAITING FOR YOU
Fun-loving and laid-back male, 50, 6'10", slim-medium build, smoker, enjoys cinema, music, travel and country pubs, seeking a female 40-46 for fun, romance & LTR. Box 443869

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EVER CHANGING COLOURS
Ian, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes turning blue when it is cold, loves live sports and golf, seeking an active female, 30-39, Box 899003

FUN AND CUDDLY
42yr old male, 5'10", blue eyes, enjoys cinema, walking, swimming and cosy nights in, seeking a damsel to rescue and be happy with. Box 443943

JUST WANTING LOVE
I'm 42, medium build, 5'10", not fat! lots of tattoos, blue eyes, shaved head, seeking a female 20-50 to share again and find love with. Box 440027

ARE YOU MY MR RIGHT?
GSOH, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WLTN a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE
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I'm 42, medium build, 5'10", not fat! lots of tattoos, blue eyes, shaved head, seeking a female 20-50 to share again and find love with. Box 440027

LOVELY JO
Young-looking attractive female, 54, NHS, friendly and sociable, love music, dance and history, warm and sparkly, WLTN a genuine female for a close female friendship. Box 445146

COMPANION MY
Tall, 42, 5'10", brown hair/eyes, I'm honest and loyal and I'm looking for the same in a woman. Box 445200

POPCORN?
Single chap, 43, enjoy cinema, holidays, beach walks, restaurants and music. I'm hoping to meet a lovely lady, 34-46. Box 445214

HOW ABOUT IT?
Kind gent, 43, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", slim-medium build, average looks, seeking female 37-57 to enjoy life, music, cinema, meals and more. Box 444712

VEGETARIAN
44yr old sociable, single dad, tall, fit, black hair, love cooking, countryside, animals, looking for a caring and loving lady. WLTN a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate. Box 434684

DOWN TO MARGATE!
Young-looking, slim male, 43yr old, 5'10", enjoys beach walks and cinema, WLTN a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate. Box 447106

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT
Friendly male, 45, seeking sweet female 18-40, NHS, for friendship and more. Box 888369

HELLO THERE
I'm Sean, 45, 5'10", medium/large build, GSOH, loves music, cinema, pubs and wine-bars, WLTN a female 30-40. Box 444321

ALL FOR LOVE
Single guy from Kent, 47, young-looking, young feeling, 5'8", short dark hair, brown eyes, average looks, likes golf, cinema, days out, seeking similar female. Box 444401

SOMEONE TO SHARE LOVE WITH
Kind, considerate, caring, honest guy, 47, hazel eyes, brown hair, medium build, like football, swimming, reading, driving, seeking caring female to share life with! Box 892531

TACTILE, FUNNY AND LOYAL
Dave, 48, tall, slim, brown hair, clean and tidy, loves being in love, looking for a feminine, funny and feisty female for friendship and more. Box 887875

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41yr old fun-loving guy, 5'10", green eyes, slim-medium build, easy to get on with, honest and caring, seeks like-minded lady to enjoy everything and anything with. Maidstone. Box 445105

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yourcompetition

WIN A tour and tasting at a luxury vineyard



TO CELEBRATE the launch of its Foxhole Reserve red wine in Tesco stores across Kent and Sussex, Bookers Vineyard is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a luxury tour and tasting for two at the vineyard in Bolney, West Sussex.

You will experience how a working vine-

yard operates, taking in the vines and discussing how they are grown and harvested. Then it will be on to the winery to find out how wine is made by the professionals.

Tours will be followed by a tasting of three wines and a buffet meal – and you will take a complimentary bottle of wine home with you. Eight annual memberships to Bookers' Wine Club are also up for grabs.

Membership includes a ten per cent discount off all wine purchases and ticketed events, plus a showcase of wines sent to you

every quarter. Vineyard events include a tutored tank-tasting, a half-day Ultimate English Wine Experience and a half-day Specialist Vine Growing tour.

Foxhole Reserve is a medium-bodied, smooth, dry red wine, ideal served with roast beef and purple berry desserts such as blackberry crumble.

It was one of only two English red wines recognised by the judging panel at this year's prestigious Decanter World Wine Awards. Visit www.bookersvineyard.co.uk.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to: Vineyard Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

Question: Where is the vineyard?

No purchase necessary. Closing date is October 30, 2008. Entrants must be over 18 years of age. For full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

HOLIDAYS & DAY TRIPS



DAY TRIPS

Destination	Date	Price (Adult pp)^
Chessington – Halloween – Hocus Pocus	26 Oct	£35
Lille & Euralille	28 Oct	£30
London Museums	29 Oct	£15
Thorpe Park Halloween Fright Night!	31 Oct	£39
Ghent By Tunnel – <i>Monday Special</i>	3 Nov	£25
Ypres Battlefield Tour & Last Post	7 Nov	£39
Lakeside or Romford Market	8 & 22 Nov	£17
London Showtime – <i>Choice of shows</i>	15 Nov	fr £47
Bruges By Tunnel – <i>Monday Special</i>	17 Nov	£25
Christmas at Blenheim Palace	22 Nov	£35
Bruges at Christmas – by Tunnel	30 Nov & 7 Dec	£30
Cite Europe Christmas Shopper	2, 9 & 18 Dec	£19
Joseph – The Musical	3 Dec	£54
Dickensian Market-Rochester	6 Dec	£17
Romford Market	6 Dec	£17
Lille at Christmas	6, 7 & 13 Dec	£30
Hever Castle at Christmas	11 Dec	£26
Arras at Christmas	13 Dec	£30
Ghent at Christmas	14 Dec	£30
Bruges at Christmas by Tunnel	14, 21, 22 Dec	£30
Ostend at Christmas	20 Dec	£30
Ypres at Christmas	20 Dec	£30
Disney High School Musical on Ice	27 & 28 Dec	£45
Brighton Ice Show "Mystery"	10,11,17,18 Jan	£39
Cirque de Soleil "Quindam"	17 Jan	£85
London Eye, River Cruise & Lunch	25 Jan & 15 Feb	£59
Sound of Music - The Musical	25 Feb	£49
Dirty Dancing	6 Mar	£59
Crufts Dog Show – working & Pastoral	8 Mar	£40
Oliver – The Musical	18 Mar	£74

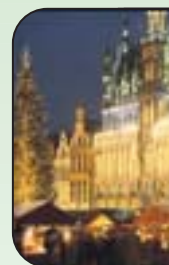
^ other dates available ^ CALL FOR CHILD & SENIOR PRICES



WW1 90th Anniversary
£159pp**
NORTHERN FRANCE WW1 & WW2 10 NOV – 4 DAYS
Our 2008 battlefields tour, accompanied by a specialist guide, visits some of the most well known locations – Ypres, the Somme, Passchendaele, Western Front & Menin Gate. Visits to La Coupole, Eperlecques and Toot Battery included. 3* hotel (BB).



£225pp*
BOURNEMOUTH TURKEY & TINSEL 1 DEC – 5 DAYS
Enjoy all the fun & camaraderie that goes along with our very popular Turkey & Tinsel theme. Experience Christmas with all the trimmings, entertainment & of course Santa himself! 3* Ocean View Hotel (HB), use of leisure facilities (at sister hotel) & 2 full day excursions.



from £169pp*
BELGIUM CHRISTMAS MARKETS 28 NOV & 5 DEC – 4 DAYS
Treat yourself & complete your Xmas shopping at the same time – what a great combination! The markets not only offer a wide array of gifts, usually all sold from pretty little wooden stalls, but traditional fayre too. Some towns have ice rinks and other special seasonal attractions. Includes: 4* hotel (BB), 1 full & 1 half day excursions.



TOP DEAL
£99pp*
LUXURY BRUGES 7 DEC – 2 DAYS
The best way to view Bruges, known as Venice of the North & one of Europe's most charming cities, is by canal cruise or horse drawn carriage. The time is yours to explore, shop or just relax. Staying at a luxury centrally located 4* superior hotel (BB) makes this a fantastic deal!!

Coaches available for private hire, & corporate events. Bespoke tour planning service available.



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TALK TIME

CATHERINE HERBERT

Swale council's arts and heritage officer who organised last month's Faversham Hop Festival, tells us about her role and background.



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up in Yorkshire and studied fine art and arts management, working primarily in the visual arts before joining Swale council earlier this year. I work on festivals, arts programming and heritage in the borough.

What first interested you in arts and the arts scene?

The 1995 Turner Prize exhibition was definitely significant; it was the first time I remember thinking I wanted to be an artist.

Who or what is your favourite type of art or artist?

This changes all the time but I really liked the show at the Barbican, The Martian Museum of Terrestrial Art which imagined aliens had discovered art works by over 100 artists and re-classified them as if they were artefacts. As far as specific artists are concerned I have spent a lot of time working for Adam Chodzko whose work is really extraordinary, it's a real privilege to have been involved with the making of this.

What do you hope you can achieve with your work in future?

I'm hoping for a really exciting time for the arts in the region with increased visibility for emerging artists and organisations, along with innovative and excellent arts programming throughout the region. The arts team are planning to expand Art At The Centre – an Arts Council England pilot project based at the Castle Gallery, Queenborough, and the annual festivals (Swale festival, Faversham Hop Festival, Sheppey Show, Sittingbourne Spectacular) will also be developed to include other art forms as an expression of the cultural life of the borough.

YOUR LETTERS

This fun hobby isn't harming anyone

Everywhere you look at the moment killjoys seem to be in operation. What could be more harmless than flying model aeroplanes?

Yet the club in Stalisfield whose members pursue this activity have to cope with people who say the noise is intrusive and it will bring down property prices.

I can't really see that a hum or two once a week is going to be classed alongside the global economic meltdown as a reason why houses are losing value.

Why can't people have a bit of tolerance and let others take part in hobbies and have a bit of fun?

Mark Allinson
Faversham



THEY ARE BOXING CLEVER

Sport is a good activity for young

Good to see young boxers getting a bit of help with their sport.

Boxing is one of the best ways for young people to channel their



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natural high spirits and also teaches respect and sportsmanship.

At a time when so many people complain about the behaviour of

youth it is right that a healthy outlet for their energies gets the backing it deserves.

Fiona Hamilton
By email

No violence should be encouraged

Good as it is to see the local boxing club getting money – is it right to be so supportive of a sport which encourages violence towards one another?

I know people will argue it is better youngsters have their aggression channelled positively and handled the right way, but I also believe there are more positive pursuits down which those energies should be directed.

And preferably one which does not involve looking to hit another human being hard enough to knock them out.

A Smith
By email



Council need to be led from the front

It is becoming depressingly familiar reading to hear about our council coming in for more criticism – and now it is their council housing provision.

In the past it's the management or finances which have made headlines for all the wrong reasons – and we wonder why the Swale area has so many problems?

If we want this borough to be truly united and successful, we need to be led from the front by

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those responsible for our services and welfare. When we get that right, everything else should slip into place.

Todd Martins
Selling

We need to repair the old, not build new

At a time when housing prices are falling surely it would be far better for Swale council to try and get homes which are currently derelict back into habitable condition.

The answer to any housing crisis is not to build more homes as they will always be expensive.

In the current market how many first time buyers can you see getting hold of enough money or a good enough deal to afford a new home?

But it would be easier for them to afford the cash necessary to take on a renovated home or, if properties are owned by a landlord, afford enough to pay the rent. Simply building more is not the answer.

They will just stand unoccupied – possibly for years if the current economic woes continue.

Alan Smith
Faversham

Streets are filled with horrible rubbish

Last week you asked the question – Is Swale A Mess?

Well I can answer that – yes.

The area seems to have rubbish littered all across the main streets and shopping areas. Worst are the fast food outlets which have

discarded wrappers and food littering the streets.

Well done for bringing the disgraceful state of our streets to people's attention.

Deborah Waterton
By email

Community wardens should tackle litter

Regarding the ever growing problem of litter, has anyone thought what a thankless job it is for those clearing the streets?

A roadsweeper – or cleansing operative – I spoke to recently explained they do not feel they can reprimand people for dropping litter as they are afraid they will just get a mouthful of abuse. We hear a lot about community wardens – maybe some could go out on the streets and penalise litter droppers?

Colin Headon
By email

Airport is a great idea for our economy

The idea for an airport in the Thames Estuary seems to have met with disapproval. But what a boost to our area it would be.

An airport would require better transport links, hotels and other facilities for travellers all of whom are used to paying top prices for accommodation, food and drink close to their point of departure.

Boris Johnson's idea would be an economic blessing for Swale.

John Stone
By email

Locations are all chosen for a reason

It is a shame Mr Phil Granger and Mr Mark Ashworth's opinions on safety cameras have been so tainted by the national media ('Cameras are only there to make cash' and 'Unofficial war is declared on drivers' in Yourswale letters pages on October 8 and October 1 respectively). I would encourage them to visit our website to find out where all the safety cameras are and see the crash/injury statistics for themselves.

Safety cameras are just one part of the overall effort by local authorities and emergency services to reduce the number of people being killed on our roads and it is a shame these gentlemen do not support them.

I would like to invite your readers to visit our website or contact me so they can hear the other side of the argument.

Katherine Barrett,
Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership

Coffee drinkers are really appreciated

Thank you to everyone who took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday, September 26.

Every penny you raised will help us reach our target of £8.5 million, which will help those living with cancer.

Laura Thornton
Fund-raising manager for Kent

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Dramatically technicolor

Touring Joseph brings his coat to town

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Monday, October 27 to
 Saturday, November 1
 Orchard Theatre, Dartford



A MAGICAL adventure will begin as Dartford hosts Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

This production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's family musical has already attracted great reviews and standing ovations, so it should provide an enchanting night out for all the family.

The title role is played by Craig Chalmers, a popular finalist in the BBC talent search Any Dream Will Do, in which aspiring stars battled to win the role of Joseph in the West End show. Chalmers lasted until the seventh week with his strong vocal performances and his talent obviously impressed those in the theatre world, as he later landed the lead role in this touring production.

The show was inspired by the Biblical story of Joseph, a young man who possesses a gift for interpreting dreams. When his father Jacob gives Joseph a special coat of many colours, his 11 brothers are overcome with jealousy - particularly as his dreams also show he is destined to rule over them all. To try and prevent the prophecy coming true, they sell Joseph as a slave and tell their father he has been killed. Ripping the coat and splattering it with goat's blood to back up their story, they convince Jacob his son is dead and Joseph is soon forgotten by his brothers.

Meanwhile, Joseph is taken to Egypt and forced to work as a slave for the millionaire Potiphar. His status improves as he rises through the household, but one day a misunderstanding with Potiphar's wife leads to Joseph being thrown in jail.

When he successfully interprets the dreams of two cellmates, news of his gift reaches the Pharaoh, who has been suffering from inexplicable visions. Joseph predicts there will be seven plentiful years followed by seven years of famine and as a reward, the Pharaoh puts him in charge of preparing Egypt for the ordeal.

Now the second most powerful man in the country, Joseph is approached by his famine-stricken brothers who beg him for help. Realising they do



POPULAR: Craig Chalmers left his mark on the BBC competition Any Dream Will Do

not recognise their little brother, he must work out how to deal with their treachery.

Joseph was the second musical written by Lloyd Webber and Rice. It started life as a 15-minute pop cantata commissioned by Colet Court School in London in 1968 but when Lloyd Webber's father spotted potential, it gradually grew into a fully fledged musical over the next few

years. Since then the lead role has been played by a variety of actors in the West End, such as Jason Donovan, Philip Schofield and Donny Osmond. With catchy songs like Any Dream Will Do, it has also proved popular with schools and amateur theatre groups.

Tickets are priced from £15 to £24.50. Call 01322 220000 or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



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IAN McMILLAN
Thursday, October 23
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

POET, broadcaster and comedian Ian McMillan brings his Yorkshire words and European music to the Canterbury Festival.

Accompanied by his orchestra, along with acclaimed composer and accordionist Luke Carver Goss, McMillan will be regaling the audience with his 'rip-roaring' poetry show. Expect powerful tales of

milkmen, heat waves, dads, voices found, death by shanty, industrial manoeuvres, 9/11, the late Ronnie Barker and other diverse subjects.

McMillan currently hosts the hit Radio 3 show The Verb and is a regular on TV and radio programmes such as Newsnight Review, The Mark Radcliffe Show and Have I Got News For You? He also holds a number of poetic positions such as: Yorkshire Planetarium's Poet in Space; Poet in Residence for The Academy

of Urbanism in London and Barnsley FC; Humberside Police's Beat Poet and Yorkshire TV's Investigative Poet. Luke Carver Goss has written commissions for symphony orchestras, rock bands, musicals, theatres and dance ensembles. He works both on his own and as a collaborator, including with the band Szapora.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12.50/£10. Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call 01227 769075.

THE MAGIC FLUTE - IMPEMPE YOMLINGO

Saturday, October 18
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



HEAR Mozart's work as you've never heard it before.

This spectacular piece of musical theatre will be performed the South African way with 35 singers accom-

panied by marimbas, drums and township percussion. The show won Best Musical Revival at this year's Olivier Awards and has attracted critical acclaim for its 'life-enhancing joy'.

Described as an adventure, fairy story, comedy and drama all in one, The Magic Flute explores the trials of life and what it means to grow up and find true love.

When Prince Tamino is rescued from the jaws of a serpent by the Queen's attendants, he falls in love with a picture of her daughter Pamina. The Queen promises him Pamina's hand if he can free her from the clutches of Sarastro and gives him a magic flute to protect him. When Tamino arrives at the temple, he is told he must endure a series of ordeals to win Pamina's freedom and heart.

The show starts at 8pm, tickets are £14.50 to £25. Call 01227 787787 or see www.marlowetheatre.com.

ANDREW MOTION

Thursday, October 16
International Study Centre, Canterbury

POET Laureate Andrew Motion hopes to spread his love of poetry and demystify the ancient role at tomorrow's lecture.

He will be reading old and new poems and introducing his acclaimed memoir In The Blood, which explores his childhood, teenage years and the tragic event that informed his poetry for many years to follow.

Born in 1952, Motion read English at University College Oxford and studied the poetry of Edward Thomas for his Masters degree. He went on to teach English at the University of Hull, before spending two years as editor of Poetry Review and then joining publisher Chatto & Windus. Now professor of creative writing at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he was appointed Poet Laureate in 1999.

The talk will start at 5.30pm. Tickets cost £7. To book call 01227 378188 or see www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.



SWALE LEISURE

Go dotty for creative writing at recital night

SWALE writers will be giving recitals of their work at the Polka Dot Art Centre later this week.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey Writers Group will be providing poetry and ditties at the centre in London Road, Teynham, on Friday. The event will run from 7pm to 9pm and admission is free.

Just turn up with your friends and your own food and drink. For more information call 01795 521167 or see www.polkadotac.co.uk.

Find out more about schools and dyslexia

FIND out about the best educational support for children with dyslexia at an informative talk on Tuesday.

What is a Dyslexia Friendly School? is a talk organised by Dyslexia East Kent Support. It is being held at Davington Primary School, Priory Row, Davington, and will run from 8pm to 9.15pm.

For more details call 0845 0038979.

Duo to entertain Folk Club at Chimney Boy

PREPARE to be charmed when Tom and Barbara Brown visit Faversham Folk Club next week.

The pair perform with guitars, a concertina and a melodeon to accompany their strong voices. Their knowledge of West Country folk music, with its touching and catching sounds, is a delight for audiences.

The concert will be held at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street at 8.30pm on Wednesday, October 22. For more details see www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Festival hosts a visit from talented organist

ACCLAIMED organist Martin Stacey will give a recital at St Paul's Church as part of the Canterbury Festival.

The church in Church Street boasts a fine 1900 Forster & Andrews instrument which has recently been restored and enlarged. The recital will include works by JS Bach, Messiaen, Wright, Daveluy, Laurin and Stacey himself.

The concert on Monday, October 20, starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8/£5. To book call 01227 378188 or visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.

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2. Defrenchy - 48 Mile Smile (Gillingham)
3. Shotgun Junky - Run Mastered (Maidstone)
4. Swap Meet - No Rehab (Whitstable)
5. Jag - Smile (Tunbridge Wells)

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Feature on our site, www.yourkenttv.co.uk
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Halloween rockers to feel the fear and do it anyway

■ BY NICK AMES

ALTERNATIVE music lovers are
spoilt for choice this Halloween
with unmissable gigs going on
across the county.

Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey has two
shows competing for your door money, both
boasting strong line-ups topped by the best
local talent.

Funk-influenced grunge outfit Kingskin are
headlining Judas Tree Promotion's show at
Bond's Sports and Social Club in New Road,
with support from Maidstone pop punk heavy-
weights One Day Elliott, metal band Cursed
As Angels, groove metallers Shadow Aspect
and metal band As Worlds Collide.

One Day Elliott, who have been a staple of
the Kent gig scene for ten years, will be selling
their latest EP at the gig which features
favourites from the band's extensive
back catalogue.

Tickets for the Judas Tree show
cost £5 and can be ordered from
www.myspace.com/judastreemusicpromotions.

Meanwhile, across town, the Ivy
Leaf in High Street is hosting a gig
organised by Stupid Human Scum
Promotions, and headlined by experi-
mental punk band Los Salvadores,
who recently replaced their bassist
with ex-Battleska Galactica bass
man Jim McLean-Johnsen.

Support comes from Sittingbourne reggae
punk act 7Day Conspiracy, emo rockers Your
Broken Ego and Sheppey's own hard rock
band Wires Faulty.

Tickets are available on the door, which
opens at 6.30pm.

More bands are expected to be added to both



CHOICE CUTS: Kingskin, above, and Los Salvadores, left, both play Halloween gigs on Sheppey

line-ups in the next few days
and gruesome fancy dress is
strongly encouraged.

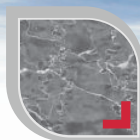
For metal fans there's a brutal line-up at the
Tap 'n' Tin, Station Road, Chatham. Bands
include headliners Breedapart, with support
from metalcore act Chasemotive, thrash met-
allers Denounce and death metal band
Pandora.

If you can't wait until Halloween, Defzone
Promotions have put together an aggressive

line-up at the Oast House, Granary Close,
Rainham, the week before, on Saturday,
October 25.

Fresh from the Bloodstock festival come
headliners Cursed As Angels (also playing in
Sheerness the following week), along with
Sittingbourne death metal band Victim
Identified and Sheppey's bizarrely named
hardcore punk outfit The Filthy Stay Puft
Marshmallow Men.

Doors open at 7.30pm and entry is £3.



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HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE (15)



Sidney Young (Simon Pegg) is a disillusioned intellectual who both adores and despises the world of celebrity. Offered a job at New York-based Sharps magazine, Sidney finds a friend and confidante in colleague Alison (Kirsten Dunst), who helps him navigate the New York social scene and deal with his nightmare boss (Jeff Bridges).

THE HOUSE BUNNY (12A)



Playboy bunny Shelley (Anna Farris) gets kicked out of the House of Hef and becomes the house mother to the lamest sorority on the college campus. Before long she helps the girls to learn not to conform to society's expectations. Shelley is living a carefree life until a rival gets her tossed out of the Playboy Mansion.

IGOR (PG)



Igor the hunchback dreams of winning the annual Evil Science Fair. With help from wise-cracking sidekicks Scamper, a grumpy lab rabbit, and the not so brainy Brain, he plans to create the greatest invention the world has ever seen. Features the vocal talents of John Cusack, Steve Buscemi, John Cleese and Eddie Izzard.

Gere'd for romance

BY ELLIE GENOWER

AFTER watching him sweep countless movie heroines off their feet in films such as *Pretty Woman* and *An Officer And A Gentleman*, it's a relief to find out that actor Richard Gere is a romantic in real life.

"I think all of us are romantic," he says. "We all have incredibly yearning hearts. I've never seen anyone who gave up on looking for love in my life – even my suicidal friends."

"We are all leaning towards love in our own ways and I don't think that ever stops."

Gere, who describes the most romantic place in the world as "anywhere my wife (actress Carey Lowell) is", stars in the new romantic drama *Nights In Rodanthe*, based on yet another best-selling book by tearjerking author of *The Notebook*, Nicholas Sparks.

The film is his third appearance opposite actress Diane Lane. The pair worked together in 2002's critically acclaimed *Unfaithful* and Frances Ford Coppola's 1984 drama *The Cotton Club*.

"What's funny is we don't actually talk to each other at all," admits Gere.

"We have almost no relationship outside of making movies. We talk to each other on the phone, maybe once or twice a year. And every 10 years or so, we'll make a movie."

"It's very intense and we're right in each other's space, hearts and minds. Then we move on, and 10 years later, we do it again. It's a peculiar relationship. Thank God we have wonderful marriages."



FAMILY FIRST: Incurable romantic Richard Gere with wife Carey Lowell

In the film Gere plays Dr Paul Flanner, a surgeon who is the only guest at a beachside inn in remote Rodanthe, North Carolina. He ends up falling for Adrienne, who is managing the inn to help out a friend for the weekend. A recently separated mother of two, Adrienne is still dealing with her husband's betrayal and the recent

news that he wants to return home. One thing leads to another and the weekend in Rodanthe ends up being the couple's second chance at love. At 59, the actor is fortunate to have tackled many genres, from his famous romantic dramas, to Oscar-winning musical Chicago, and last year's ensemble indie hit *I'm Not There*.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



"When someone makes me do it, and I look back through my career, I see I've done lots of different types of movies I like," he says.

"But there's still quite a few I haven't done and maybe I'll get a shot at. It's the violent ones that I have no interest in whatsoever."

"Even a film like *The Jackal*, which I was happy with my work in, had gone over the violent edge for me. I probably wouldn't do another movie like that again."

Like his character, Gere also found love second time round with his model-turned-actress wife Lowell.

They have one son, eight-year-old Homer, named after Gere's father. Despite the long hours and demands of the job, he says his family are his "priority".

"I have a very balanced life. It's not all about movies and it's not all about acting. This is a great job we have – an incredible job. I'm incredibly thankful for it and I acknowledge that every day. The kind of life that I've been able to live because of it. I don't overestimate in terms of what it means in the universe. We're living the dream, but we have to know that we are."



NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
Certificate PG

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Fri 17 –
Thur 23 October



- ▶ **A Cottage on Dartmoor PG**
with Live Piano Accompaniment by Stephen Horne
Fri - 6.20pm
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Fri - 8.50pm, Sat - 6.20pm, Sun - 8.50pm
- ▶ **WALL E PG**
Sat & Sun - 2.50pm
- ▶ **Lou Reed's Berlin 12A**
Sat - 8.50pm & Sun - 6.20pm
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SWALE SHOPPING

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THOSE with a penchant for rock should head to HMV in the Marlowe Arcade where prices on a range of CDs have been slashed by up to 70 per cent.

The music giant has Guns N Roses' Greatest Hits and Metallica's And Justice For All for £6.99, and Black Sabbath's Paranoid, Funeral for a Friend's Tales Don't Tell Themselves and Prince's glorious Purple Rain for the bargain price tag of £3.99.

For full details of the price cuts across the range, log-on to www.hmv.com.

Big Red Book is full of festively fun presents

SUMMER may only just be over, but the countdown to Christmas is on.

And high street giants Woolworths are hoping to steal a few yards on their rivals with the release of their Big Red Book gift guide – complete with Santa hat-wearing model on the cover – to showcase their Christmas 2008 selection.

The book has a host of gift ideas for all the family and features a number of special offers. For a copy simply pop into the store or see www.woolworths.co.uk.

Fill your Boots and your stockings with goodies

NOT that Boots will be far behind. The chain has also unleashed its Christmas guide in good time for shoppers looking to spread the cost of the festive gift-buying extravaganza.

Key offers include three for two deals on a range of gift sets and toys, half price digital cameras and a selection of beauty ideas for every member of the family.

The Boots Christmas catalogue is in store now, or see www.boots.co.uk.

A closer shave is now closer to your budget

MEN can be smooth for half the price with Remington's 360 Series of electric shavers.

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The range also includes the R6130 Diamond and R5130 Titanium rotary shavers, along with two foil shavers – the FF600 Diamond and the FF500 Titanium. Stockists include Boots. See www.remington.co.uk for details.

Book in for the easy way to stop smoking

GIVE up the weed and break free from nicotine addiction with Allen Carr's Easy Way To Stop Smoking.

The health guru has 38 centres in the UK where smokers can get help to quit, including a new clinic in Maidstone. His book claims to offer a simple way to free smokers from the 'nicotine trap', without relying on willpower, putting on weight or suffering from withdrawal pangs.

The book is published by Penguin and is priced at £8.99. For more information about Carr's methods and centres visit www.allencarr.com.



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YOUR TV REVIEW

SUNSHINE
BBC One, 9pm, Tuesday

BY TOM BETTS

STEVE Coogan could shower us all with gold coins and £50 notes and it still wouldn't be as good as half an hour of Alan Partridge, the creation he thankfully first gave us in the early 90s.

It must be sad to hit that high so early in a career knowing that, really, you will probably never top it.

On the other hand however, the bright side must be knowing that you have created something special, which, in turn must be a quite an amazing feeling.

Still Coogan's average offerings are better than most people's best, not that newbie Sunshine is really average at all. In fact, it's really rather good.

This may not hit the dizzy heights of Partridge, but it sure has its moments... just in a different way.

The comedy side is not classic Coogan, far from it, but the signs are that this will still be a fine three-part mini-series, reaching a conclusion next week.

As Bing, the happy-go-lucky chancer with a love of a flutter, the funnyman pulls more at the heartstrings than at the sides of the mouth. A refreshing change of direction.

Our hero tries his best to do right by his young son and wife, but the lure of the bookmakers proves too much for 'our' Bing and the character's run thus far has proved to be neither happy, nor go-lucky.

With ever hopeful manner, he lurches from one doomed dead cert to another.

The well-meaning dad's heart-of-gold cannot stop the break-up of his young family though and he is never



BETTING WOES: Steve Coogan (back left) is back to his best in BBC 1's mini-series Sunshine

more than one flutter away from marital disaster or total elation.

All this plays out amid a backdrop of bin men, bacon butties, scrunched up betting slips and smoky boozers and makes for a touching document of a serial gambler's woes, as head meets hands time and time again.

Soon he gets drawn into the murky world of illegal gambling from the not-so-murky world of high street bookies.

A case of better the devil you didn't know.

Just like all the best stars, Coogan shows he does tragedy as well as comedy and this is buoyed with a smattering of fine support from the likes of Bernard Hill and pretty much everyone who was in Early Doors and The Royle Family.

This is gambling and this is Coogan, but it's certainly no bluff.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

IT may be difficult to focus on your personal life due to career concerns. You've got to put more distance between your professional and private lives or loved ones will feel neglected. A stalled legal issue or bureaucratic matter could finally move forward over the next few days.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A HEALTH problem that was causing lots of confusion is starting to clear up. You could finally get a clear diagnosis this week. Be sure to follow advice as you don't want to complicate this situation. An authority figure that is in an ivory tower may have unreasonable expectations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

DON'T project your feelings onto a partner. Respect other people's views even if they are completely different from yours. The two of you can't possibly agree on everything. It's quite possible you will be invited to take on new responsibilities or even work abroad.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

HIDING your troubles is a mistake. If you've suffered a setback talk about it with your family and friends. They'll help pick up the pieces. If you're seeking employment, check out opportunities related fitness. Any job that has an element of physicality is favoured.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

FOR the past few weeks, you and a loved one have been talking at cross purposes. Take this opportunity to iron out your differences. A cheque you've been sitting down and discuss how this money should be spent. This is a good time to buy something you've wanted for a long time.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU could get a chance to make a childhood dream come true, but will it live up to your expectations? Or will it spur you on to bigger and better things. A creative block could finally dissolve, allowing you to move forward with a project. Playing music could be inspirational.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

GETTING a raise or promotion is a distinct possibility. If you're not offered as much money as you'd like, ask for more. You have more power than you realise. Don't overindulge or it could dull your negotiation skills. You never know what you are capable of until you try.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

MISUNDERSTANDINGS with family or neighbours can be overcome. Make a point of listening more than you speak. It's possible your drive for brutal honesty is pushing a wedge between you and your friends. Toning down your approach doesn't make your views easier to accept.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

IT will get easier to deal with a business or romantic partner this week. The confusion and anger that has been swirling around your relationship is starting to lift. Don't let friends influence your decisions on this matter. You've got to deal with people as individuals.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

POSTPONE any major decisions until next week, when you'll be more decisive and thinking more clearly. Romance and finance don't mix. It may be a good idea to open a bank account that is separate from your partner's. At least this way you can maintain a little money.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOU'VE got to be more attentive to a child, or they could get into trouble. Trying to buy their affection is a mistake. What your young friend really wants is your time, not your money. A close relationship could come to an end leaving you free to pursue other opportunities.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

IT may be time to move to a different neighbourhood. If you're seeking a new place check out locations near the water. You could find a lovely spot that feels like a haven from the outside world. Don't let friends discourage you from accepting a challenging job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

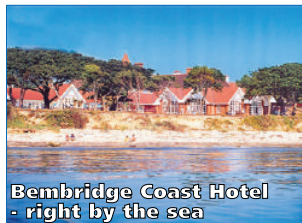
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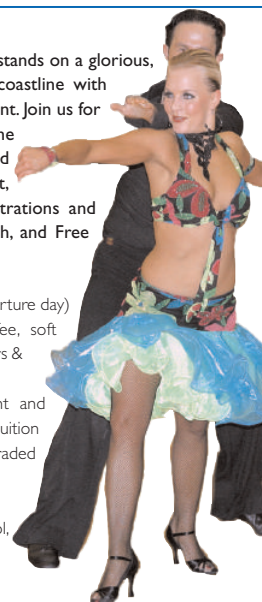
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

5			2	7		9		
4		7	8			2		
	6		3	1	5	4		
	4	5	6					
		9	7	2	1	5		
			9		8	1		
		3	6	5	9		4	
	9		3		7		8	
	5		1	8			6	

MEDIUM

	5			2	8	7		
		9		4			1	
2				6				
7	3					4	5	
			4		9			
	4	6				8	1	
				5				4
	7			1		2		
		4	6	9			3	

HARD

9					8	4		
2			6			3		8
	8			7		1		
5			9	8		2	1	
			2		4			
	6	2		5	1			4
		5		2			8	
1		8			9			3
		6	8					1

CRYPTIC CLUES

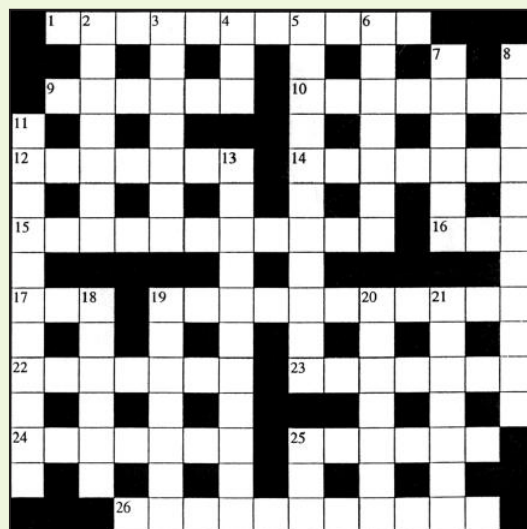
ACROSS

- 1 Fearfully rigid? (6,5)
- 9 Willy airmen in city 1 left (6)
- 10 Fellow Scot makes bloomer (7)
- 12 Grant's first name for Greek hero (7)
- 14 Walter twisted reel initially on boat (7)
- 15 Fine shot at goal? (7,4)
- 16 Dad, a palindrome (3)
- 17 Food starting to be nutritious (3)
- 19 Helped to create a build-up? (11)
- 22 With German agreement, he replaced one in path of Noachic descendant (7)
- 23 Systematic police search at the bottom of the water? (7)
- 24 Quite out of order (7)
- 25 110 going round capital peak (6)
- 26 Great Fire of London (3,3,5)

DOWN

- 2 Continue to have an affair (5,2)
- 3 No option (7)
- 4 Uninteresting fourth-rate lines (3)
- 5 Stingy with one's palm hidden (5-6)
- 6 Flipper covered rear whale (7)
- 7 Incentive Philip announced (6)
- 8 Bravery when negotiating tiny riptide (11)
- 11 Firework leaping over lifting device (7-4)
- 13 Secret agent in taxi with tachograph (3,2,3,3)
- 18 Stop Hattie including head-covering (3-3)
- 19 Each with the remarkably swift feline (7)
- 20 You, say, had headless skull as a result of radioactive element (7)
- 21 Nail Kit can't bend (7)
- 25 Firm with force on machine part (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Computer program (11)
- 9 Very drunk (6)
- 10 Flat pasta (alt. spelling) (7)
- 12 Became dry and shrivelled (7)
- 14 Mexican state (7)
- 15 Taller than a bungalow (3-8)
- 16 Craving (3)
- 17 Success (3)
- 19 Basic (11)
- 22 Fine rain (7)
- 23 Predominate (7)
- 24 Feverish (7)
- 25 Literary tag (6)
- 26 Self-important (11)

DOWN

- 2 Italian palace (7)
- 3 No longer existing (7)
- 4 Duet (3)
- 5 Area with chalets, hotels and entertainments (7,4)
- 6 Endures (anag.) (7)
- 7 Bureau (6)
- 8 White Mediterranean flower (7-4)
- 11 Lost interest (8,3)
- 13 Disarray (11)
- 18 Soft felt hat (6)
- 20 Retired title-holders (7)
- 21 Windpipe (7)
- 25 Lettuce (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No57

EASY

5	4	3	8	9	6	1	7	2
7	1	6	2	5	4	9	8	3
2	8	9	1	3	7	4	6	5
3	2	7	9	8	1	6	5	4
6	5	1	7	4	3	8	2	9
8	9	4	5	6	2	7	3	1
4	3	8	6	1	5	2	9	7
9	7	5	4	2	8	3	1	6
1	6	2	3	7	9	5	4	8

MEDIUM

4	5	6	8	7	1	9	3	2
1	3	7	6	2	9	5	4	8
9	8	2	4	5	3	6	7	1
7	4	5	3	8	2	1	9	6
3	1	9	5	6	7	8	2	4
2	6	8	1	9	4	3	5	7
5	2	1	7	3	8	4	6	9
8	9	3	2	4	6	7	1	5
6	7	4	9	1	5	2	8	3

HARD

5	7	9	4	6	2	3	8	1
3	6	8	7	5	1	4	9	2
4	2	1	9	3	8	6	7	5
2	3	5	8	4	7	9	1	6
1	8	6	5	2	9	7	4	3
7	9	4	3	1	6	5	2	8
9	1	7	6	8	3	2	5	4
8	4	3	2	7	5	1	6	9
6	5	2	1	9	4	8	3	7

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No57

ACROSS: 1 Parking fee 6 Scow 9 Right 10 Sure 11 Gnar 13 Gathering-ground 14 Exploded 16 Steamy 18 Beluga 19 Quickest 22 Pick up the pieces 24 Indo 25 Onto 26 Cavit 27 Toga 28 Cattle-grid. DOWN: 1 Pirogue 2 Roget 3 In the long run 4 Gossiped 5 Enrage 7 Conjugate 8 Workday 12 Arctic Circle 15 Police-dog 17 Ruled out 18 Baptist 20 Tussled 21 Stanza 23 Cover.

QUICK SOLUTION No58

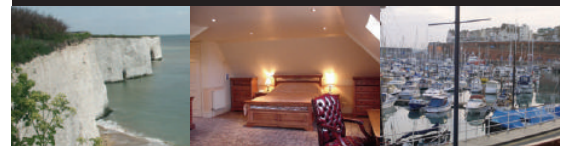
Emerita 21 Trachea 25 Cos. Derangement 18 Thrilly 19 Fizzing 20 8 Madonna 11 Switched off 13 4 Duo 5 Holiday camp 6 Ensured 7 Agency 26 Ecotistical 23 Prevail 24 Pebble 25 Clutch 22 Drizzle 25 Prevail 24 Pebble 25 Clutch Two-storied 16 Ven 17 Hit 19 Fundamental Liasian 12 Wounded 14 Burango 15 ACROSS: 1 Spreadsheet 9 Bloot 10

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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Cruising in the lap of luxury

BY JEREMY GATES

THE charming lady in Marks & Spencer's bureau de change wondered if my haul of euros would suffice for six days in a barge exploring the wide open spaces of the Camargue and the coastline of Languedoc-Roussillon.

"It will never be enough," she said. "Not for the south of France with the euro so strong."

But that's one of the attractions of river cruising; the intimate, luxury alternative to superliners of 3,000 passengers or more.

This is Charles and Camilla-style cruising, with staff tending to any needs, a gin and tonic available at any time of the day and night, and little sign of a sordid thing called cash.

If you fancy a tray of oysters for brunch, and those left over reheated at teatime – yes, someone really did – then your gourmet chef will be only too happy to oblige.

But the main appeal of barging through France – as television chef Rick Stein illustrated with his series a few years back – is that the landscape and historic towns and cities are often at their most beautiful when approached by river or canal.

I found it hard to believe that Languedoc-Roussillon was for years viewed as the mosquito-ridden poor relation of France's Mediterranean coast and a pale shadow of its more illustrious neighbour, the Cote d'Azur.

If there is a more memorable way of arriving



FLOATING FREE: A life of luxury evolves into a beguiling routine aboard a converted barge in the Camargue

in historic Avignon and glimpsing the triumphant silhouette of the Palace des Popes than clutching a glass of champers on the Rhone, then I have yet to discover it.

Our epic voyage began in the ancient town of Agde. Eleven guests boarded L'Impressioniste, described by owners European Waterways as "a floating hotel", to be greeted over champers and canapes by a crew of five dressed in elegant white uniforms and looking rather like a Royal Navy reception in Buenos Aires.

The captain, Nicolas Guedet, a jovial seafaring son of the Vendee, explained that the fine food and wines of the Languedoc-Roussillon region would be a key theme of our six-day voyage to the historic city of Avignon.

Although the vessel, nearly 400 tonnes when fully loaded, began life as a working barge in the docks at Amsterdam in the 1960s, lavish refurbishment has created a grand vessel. The living/dining area and cabins below are air-

conditioned and the decks are made of teak. Slowly our life of luxury evolved into a beguiling routine.

Each day there was an excursion, in an air-conditioned people-carrier, guided by a member of the crew.

No two stopping places were quite the same and there was always time for a leisurely lunch before chugging to a new destination by nightfall.

Luckily, nobody had a set of scales to weigh themselves before we were driven to the station in Avignon. And the TGV express back to Lille, before the change of trains to Eurostar, hardly felt like five hours, because the views of landscape and hillside hamlets are often stunning enough to interrupt your reading.

Long before we raced through Kent, I thought of another good argument for luxury barging – you don't have to go anywhere near a crowded airport.

FACT FILE: FRANCE



Time difference	UK +1 hour
Capital	Paris
Population	60 million
Currency	Euro (1.2 to £1 approx)
Religion	Christian (mainly Catholic)
Climate	Temperate
Language	French

Travel details

• Jeremy Gates was a guest of European Waterways, which offers six night all-inclusive voyages until November aboard L'Impressioniste from £2,150 per person, including gourmet meals with wine, open bars and daily excursions. Price based on two sharing a double cabin.

The exclusive charter price – for ten passengers taking over the crewed ship – starts at £23,000 per week.

• European Waterways reservations: 01784 482439 and www.gobarging.com.

• He travelled from London St Pancras on Eurostar to Montpellier, and back from Avignon via Lille, with Rail Europe, which offers standard class return fares from £109.

• Rail Europe reservations: 0844 848 4070 and www.raileurope.co.uk.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Efficiency drive will aid tenants

PRIVATE tenants could save up to £700 a year on energy bills if landlords installed straightforward energy-saving measures, according to a new study.

A UK-wide survey commissioned by the Energy Saving Trust – a body set up to help tackle climate change – reveals that in the South East more than 70 per cent of householders said they would try to drive down the price if the home they were trying to buy or rent had a poor energy efficiency rating.

The research also found that more than six out of ten respondents think landlords will pass on the cost of making their properties more energy efficient to the tenant, while eight in ten would think twice about renting from a landlord whose property had a poor Energy Performance Certificate rating.

From this month landlords are legally bound to show tenants the EPC score of the property they are renting out.

EPCs tell people how energy efficient a home is on a scale of A-G. The most efficient homes – which should have the lowest fuel bills – are in band A.

Chief executive Philip Sellwood said: "We know people are going to be looking to rent out places that are cheaper to run – it's hardly rocket science."

"A three-bedroom semi could move from band F to C, saving a tenant £700 a year on energy bills, if the landlord installed straightforward energy saving measures, such as insulation."

"There is no good reason for landlords to pass the cost of upgrading a property to meet energy efficiency criteria."

Beckett's plans

NEW housing minister Margaret Beckett has outlined her main aims after her move into the position formerly held by Caroline Flint.

She said her priorities were to "help overcome the challenges in the housing market caused by global turbulence, while maintaining our focus on delivering the affordable homes needed to meet long-term demand".

Ms Beckett is also looking to help support households struggling with mortgage payments and those looking to get on to the housing ladder.

Much of the Government's housing development plans are centred on Kent, particularly around Ashford and along the Thames Estuary.

Planners say fluctuations in the economy were factored in when the proposals were first outlined and the current downturn will not alter construction plans.

How to get a bigger house – even if the market is shrinking

BY NICK AMES

HOMEOWNERS in the South East are more likely to extend their property than those in any other region in the country, according to new research.

Findings from a report by home improvement specialist Extend-A-Room have revealed that more than a quarter of its 2008 sales to date came from counties in South East England – and Kent in particular.

Managing director Craig Miller says the lack of mortgage finance is preventing homeowners from taking the next step up the property ladder, prompting many to extend rather than move.

He said: "In the current economic climate homeowners who need more space, maybe to accommodate a growing family, are struggling to make the move to a bigger property."

Pioneering

"Over recent months Extend-A-Room has seen a sharp increase in the number of homeowners who have chosen to extend."

"This trend appears to be more prevalent in the South East, where property prices are estimated to have decreased by more than three per cent."

Extend-A-Room has pioneered new technology which means its extensions do not require foundations – good news for homeowners who want a fast, cost-effective extension with minimum inconvenience.

Mr Miller said: "Adding an extension increases the value of your property and does not incur the legal fees, estate agency fees or stamp duty associated with moving house – an attractive prospect for homeowners, given the state of the market."

With the property market not expected to



ELBOW ROOM: With the property market feeling the economic chill, many homeowners are choosing to extend

begin its recovery until 2010, Extend-A-Room is preparing for an autumn rush in advance of the festive period. Extend-A-Room operates by undertaking a technical survey of a property which the owner wants to enlarge.

Steel components are then manufactured and delivered, and roof and wall frames con-

structed to measure the dimensions of the extension. They are then delivered to the address and builders follow a day or so later.

From the initial decision of a homeowner to extend their house, the completion time is usually between four and six weeks.

Each project is costed individually.

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Source: • Customer satisfaction survey, Dec 2007
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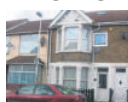


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SELLING AGENTS



MOTORS NEWS



Fiesta launch 'small car – big hurrah' campaign

FORD of Britain is staging its most ambitious and integrated marketing campaign ever to launch the Fiesta supermini this month.

Using everything from TV ads to online and direct mail, Ford is highlighting the newcomer's technical and environmental attributes as the market embraces 'downsizing' and cost-cutting.

Priced from £8,695 – £155 less than its outgoing equivalent – the Fiesta's eco-friendliness will be highlighted by the ultra-green diesel ECOnetic (from £11,845) next year, which averages 70+mpg and emits a road tax-exempt 98gm/km of CO₂.



Vitara aiming to stand firm as sector buckles

SUZUKI'S Grand Vitara should resist declining interest in 4x4s better than most because here is a keenly priced SUV (sports utility vehicle) that really can go off-roading too.

Some 20 years on from the original Vitara, the latest generation also has a new refined 2.4-litre petrol-powered flagship also fitted with ESP (electronic stability programme), with the three-door version pitched as a sporty high spec offering with 17-inch alloys, rear privacy glass and in-dash six-CD system. Prices for new 2.4 models start at £14,499.



Renault lift for Laguna with a new Coupé star

AN elegant Renault Laguna Coupé arrives in January charged with glamorising a car clobbered by the faltering family car sector.

Like rival models, the latest Laguna hatch and Tourer have been hit by the stampede to MPVs, 4x4s and premium badge compact executive cars. The Coupé should pep up the Laguna's image sporting two new V6 powerplants as well as existing 2.0-litre petrol and diesel Laguna powerplants.



PERFECT FIT: The old Ibiza looked out of step with the edgy styling of the bigger Leon family hatch-cum-coupé and sporty Altea MPV series, but Seat have finally rectified that

Ibiza club set to grow with Seat's latest hit

SEAT has completed a stylish range overhaul.

It has been a dramatic transformation, underpinning the Spanish marque's 'Auto Emocion' marketing.

The piece of the jigsaw – ignoring the 'dead man walking' Alhambra MPV – is the all-new Ibiza. The old car was fun, but looked out of step with the edgy styling of the bigger Leon family hatch-cum-coupé and sporty Altea MPV series.

But this new five-door – a three-door SportCoupé arrives shortly – fits the new regime perfectly.

Seat opted for a scaled up replacement in the style of other 'supersize' superminis like the Vauxhall Corsa, Peugeot 207 and Renault Clio – no doubt leaving room for a new city car to slot in later.

The result is relatively big and comfortable, with capacious boot, starting at just £8,995 – £300 less than the outgoing five-door. Trim levels have been streamlined to S, SE and Sport.

Most launch models fit road tax Band-C (£120/year), though don't rule out a punt later at Band-B (£35/year) and even A (free) when

the greener Ecomotion arrives.

However, there is nothing exceptional about standard spec as tested here – you must trade up to SE to get air con and alloys thrown in. Sport versions (from £10,695) fit the bill though, with sports suspension and seats and arch-filling 16-inch alloys.

Seat offers affordable add-on packs for popular options too, though these undermine the boast that the new range opens at £300 less than its predecessor.

Nevertheless, strip the new car back to basics, as in our test, and you appreciate what a good car it is to drive, helped by a longish wheelbase and wide stance that also delivers a good ride.

Space between the axles aids cabin room too, but whether it is corporate bean counters or a Spanish preference for eye-catching exteriors, but I'm not bowled over by the interior design and materials and it may lack the 'flash' for younger buyers attracted by the exciting lines of the car.

The 1.2-litre three-cylinder petrol engine tested here and carried over from before also shows its age and lack of refinement and go.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

ROAD TEST SEAT IBIZA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★



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ME9 9AQ

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa range: urban 26.9 (10.5) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 44.1 (6.4) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 35.8 (7.9) - 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ Emissions 119 - 190g/km.

Model shown has optional 17-inch alloy wheels available at extra cost. Up to 74.3mpg figure refers to extra-urban cycle on the Corsa 1.3CDTi (75 PS). £35 refers to annual road tax cost on Corsa 1.3CDTi (75PS) models. No deposit 0% finance available on selected Corsa models. Finance by GMAC UK plc. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers only. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK supplied vehicles only. A guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Ecoflex offer is available on selected engines and applies to the trade in and agreement to scrap one vehicle only. To qualify for this offer, a customer must purchase one of the eligible models, trade in a vehicle and agree to scrap the vehicle. The trade in vehicle must have been registered in the name of the customer prior to 31.03.08. Vehicle must be able to be driven on the highway. The customer must supply a vehicle registration document (V5C) and a valid MOT certificate to the retailer for the trade in vehicle. Vauxhall will ensure the vehicle is scrapped under the end of life vehicle directive and a certificate of destruction will be held by the retailer. If the customer agrees to scrap the vehicle a total of £1000 (inc. VAT) will be paid towards the purchase of a new eligible model irrespective of the current market value of their vehicle. For more details on this offer and the eligible models go to www.offers.vauxhall.co.uk or visit your local retailer. Offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. All offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 03.10.08 and 02.12.08, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux55998)

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FORD KA



THOUGH it gets the chop in November, the Ka remains in demand new and used. None of the ageing engines allow it to qualify for the lowest road tax, but the quirky-looking three-door car is a no-nonsense affordable runabout and there are plenty on sale to choose from. If it has a fault, then it is styling that tends to attract women buyers – and put off the blokes – but it is a good drive, being based on a previous Fiesta.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CHEVROLET MATIZ



INCH for inch, the Matiz was state-of-the-art in terms of five-door compact city car design when it arrived as a Daewoo in 1998. Early 800cc versions were pretty gutless and noisy, so go for the 1.0-litre engine if possible. Otherwise, the Matiz is a frugal and well-equipped easily-parked car for local driving and surprisingly spacious and versatile, with a comfortable ride. Aesthetically, the original Daewoo design is better than the later 'puffed up' Chevrolet facelift version.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

carsfor Kent.co.uk

SMALL city cars are in big demand as the global warming debate heats up, fuel prices soar and Government policies make matters worse. No wonder that we are all re-thinking and asking "Just how much car do I really need?" For single users, couples and small families, the answer is something of a no-brainer when a small supermini – now popularly known as a city car or urban runabout – can return nearly 60mpg and falls into the lowest road tax bands. Here are three of the sector's cheapest used buys.

PERODUA KELISA



DO NOT look for cutting edge design or technology in this compact Malaysian-built five-door, but don't dismiss it either because it first saw life as the Daihatsu Cuore – a lesson in compact-ness, economy and reliability. The three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol-powered Kelisa is reliable, cheap to run, great in town and fun to drive. However, it is not the funkiest small car and does have a fuddy-duddy customer base – but these are the people you want as previous owners of used cars.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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3x1
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Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.



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For an application form contact: KCA (UK) Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

Closing date: 24th October 2008

Interview date: 30th October 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.



Could you dedicate your business or professional skills for about 2 hours per month to genuinely help improve lives?

Last year KCA worked with over 20,000 adults and young people to reduce the harm caused by drug, alcohol and mental health issues.

Due to the retirement of long-standing trustees, we are looking for new volunteers who can offer time and enthusiasm to help oversee the continued development of this well respected charity.

TRUSTEES

The KCA board consists of 12 trustees who play a key role in ensuring that the organisation operates in line with its charitable objectives. Trustees meet regularly with members of the KCA senior management team to review performance, formulate policy and revise procedures. You would be directly involved in steering the continued success of this developing charity. Trustees attend meetings 8 times per year in Faversham (normally 17.30 to 19.30), and are also invited to attend service centres and occasional KCA events.

We are looking for trustees who have an interest in the drug, alcohol and mental health issues. We particularly welcome applications from within finance, law and public services sectors and from people with experience in service provision, including previous service users.

KCA was founded in 1975 and has approximately 300 staff operating in over 20 service centres around the South East and in London. The organisation prides itself on developing innovative services, and on responding to the needs of the communities it serves.

Expenses can be claimed by trustees.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact the Chief Executive, Anton Derkacz (anton.derkacz@kca.org.uk) on 01795 590635 or the Chair of Trustees, John Holroyde on jholroyde@btinternet.com, www.kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

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Supporting the Centre Manager to lead an innovative Study Support Centre (part of the DCSF PFS initiative) based at any of the locations above, you will work in partnership with the Clubs and play an influential role in the LA's development of out of school hours learning.

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You will be responsible for planning, managing and delivering day time, evening and weekend programmes from the Centre by working closely with the Centre Manager, local schools, the Club, partners and the wider community.

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Applications are welcomed from candidates with experience of working with a range of ages and experiences. You should also have experience of a range of educational contexts and ideally, of working with young people outside the classroom. An interest in sport would be useful.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss this post please contact: Christian Kelly (Playing for Success Kent Manager) on 07825 506584/christian.kelly@kent.gov.uk

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.

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Academic Support Assistant	08/74
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum	
Administrative Assistant	03/14
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum	
Examinations/Administrative Assistant	06/176
27.75 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum	

For an application pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 27th October 2008 at 12 noon

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- Extensive Training Programs
- Long service awards
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Job Title: Case Manager
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Location: East Kent Locality
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC520
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Team Secretary
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Swale Area
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC521
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Team Secretary
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Ashford
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC522
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Team Secretary
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Margate
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC518
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Receptionist/ Clerical Officer
Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Herne Bay
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC515
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Team Secretary
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Canterbury Area
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC525
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Team Secretary
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Dover Area
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC524
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Public Health Business Manager
Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Location: Maidstone, Kent
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECC513
Closing date: 17/10/08

Job Title: Senior Public Health Information Analyst
Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Location: Maidstone, Kent
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECC516
Closing date: 17/10/08

Job Title: Patient Choice Advisor
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Ashford
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH156
Closing date: 17/10/08

Job Title: Medicines Management Secretary
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Dover
Hours: 10
Ref: 767-ASH154
Closing date: 17/10/08

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Job Title: Community Nurse
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Ramsgate
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC498
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Lead Matron
Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Location: East Kent Locality
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC519
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Community Nurse
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Deal
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-EIC497
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Community Nurse
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Margate
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-EIC499
Closing date: 16/10/08

Job Title: Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Nurse
Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Location: Protea House, Dover
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH125
Closing date: 17/10/08

Job Title: Clinical Sister / Charge Nurse x2
Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Herne Bay and Whitstable Area
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC510
Closing date: 17/10/08

Job Title: Children's Primary Mental Health Worker
Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Ramsgate, Kent
Hours: 22.5
Ref: 767-ECC501
Closing date: 20/10/08

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Job Title: Pharmacy Technician Medicines Support Service
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Protea House, Dover
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECS502
Closing date: 17/10/08

Job Title: Dental Officer
Salary: £36,792 to £57,232 pa
Location: Deal/New Romney/Ramsgate
Hours: Full and Part Time hours available
Ref: 767-ECS458
Closing date: 17/10/08

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Quality and Innovations Manager	08/113
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £37,529 per annum	
Head of Faculty Science & Humanities	06/103
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £42,128 per annum	
Coordinator Public Services	C046
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £27,209 per annum	
Co-ordinator of WBL and other Part-time Motor Vehicle programmes including IMI ATA	CO106
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £27,209 per annum	
Coordinator Mathematics	08/61
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £27,209 per annum	
Lecturer Health & Social Care	07/81
18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Animal Care & Land Based	01/144
18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based	07/87
37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Early Years	08/110
37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum	
Lecturer Basic Skills	05/08
18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Supply NVQ Assessors Early Years	S/NVQ/EY
Various hours available, salary range £18,295 – £26,232 pro rata per annum	
Technician to Support Applications (Standard)	ATS
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 annum	
Network Technician (Standard)	NT1
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,914 annum	
Service Desk Technician Level 1	SDT1
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum	
Learning Support Independent Living & Leisure Skills	08/82
18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,914 pro rata per annum	
Learning Support Basic Skills & ESOL	08/143
37 hours per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,914 pro rata per annum	
Registry Assistant	07/73
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum	
Admissions Assistant	AA1
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Online Exams Assistant	06/37
18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum	
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For an application pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 27th October 2008 at 12 noon

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PART TIME PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ADMINISTRATOR

Ref: 01086/K3

In this post you will liaise closely with the other part time Personal Assistant/Administrator to provide administrative support to the Head of School and other staff within the School of Engineering. You will perform the whole range of secretarial and clerical duties including taking minutes for meetings. We are looking for someone with Office Studies/Administration at NVQ 3 or equivalent relevant experience. You must have initiative but be able to work within a strong team ethos. You will have some tight deadlines and need to be well organised. You will be working with a wide range of people so excellent interpersonal skills are vital.

Hours of work 17.5 per week

Salary pro rata to £19,841 - £22,332 per annum

PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ref: 01087/K3

The School of Science employs around 90 staff and deals with about 2800 students. It runs undergraduate and post graduate degrees in a wide range of science subjects including biomedical, environmental, pharmaceutical and sports sciences.

You will work as part of a team liaising with School and University staff to improve student attendance. This involves the monitoring of attendance, the adherence to learning contracts and general compliance with University systems and regulations designed to support students.

Hours of work 21 per week.

Salary pro rata to £17,169 - £19,263 per annum

TECHNICIAN (FIXED TERM FOR 2 YEARS)

Ref: 01088/K3

You will work in a large University teaching laboratory in the general areas of chemistry and pharmaceutical science. The majority of the work will involve preparation for laboratory classes and assistance with projects for both undergraduate and MSc students.

You should be educated to at least A-level (or equivalent) and should possess good knowledge of working in a chemistry laboratory and be able to use appropriate equipment. Good IT skills are also required especially in the use of email, word processing and spreadsheets. You will be a team player and operate well under pressure.

This post is fixed term for 2 years.

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To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 21 October 2008.



KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people, including psychological therapy services.



REF: 519 – IAPT PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY (HIGH INTENSITY INTERVENTIONS) TRAINEES - MAIDSTONE PTP

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This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a major national initiative. The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT) is the largest implementation programme for evidence-based psychological therapies undertaken anywhere in the world. The Regional IAPT is sponsored by Kent and Medway Mental Health Commissioners and will be delivered by KCA and Kent & Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT). The new funds will train workers to deliver Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to people with problems related to anxiety and depression.

The post-holders will be members of KCA's new PTP Team to be based in Maidstone, and will also need to make a commitment to a 1 year training course (2 days per week). The training will be held at Brighton University's Eastbourne campus. On successful completion of the course, a permanent contract will be issued.

The post-holder will need to hold a relevant professional qualification OR be able to demonstrate core therapeutic competences as detailed by BABCP.

Should you wish to discuss this opportunity informally please contact Sam Downie on 01737 225370 or sdownie@kca.org.uk, or Kerry Smith/David Hayter on 01795 590212 or ksmith@kca.org.uk / dhayter@kca.org.uk.

For an application form contact:

KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8AT.

Telephone: 01795 590635. Fax: 01795 539351.

E-mail: recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

Closing date: Wednesday 22nd October 2008 at 5.00 pm

Interview date: Thursday 30th October 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Insolvency Act 1985
MERIDIAN STORAGE LIMITED
Company Number 06052851

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, on Wednesday 22 October 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 99 and 101 of the Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a statement of claim, at the offices of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, not later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 21 October 2008. The proxy form and statement may be posted or sent by fax to 01795 538868.

Secured creditors may only vote for the balance of the debt, which will not be recovered by enforcement of the security, unless right to enforce is waived.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address on Monday 20 October 2008 and Tuesday 21 October 2008 between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. If no liquidation committee is formed, a resolution may be taken specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting will receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. Dated: 2 October 2008
T Bills, Director

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Planning ahead for ageing population

EMPLOYMENT for older people will be at the heart of discussions during a half-day conference that will look at how an ageing population might change the working world.

Older people are looking at their options as a way of helping them plan financially for later life, while employers are finding advantages in bringing in experienced, knowledgeable employees.

The event, on Tuesday, October 28, follows a series of workshops in 2007 that looked at how to develop a strategy for older people in Kent.

It will be at the Village Hotel and Leisure Club, Maidstone. For more information, contact Mike Sherburn at KCC on 01622 694018, or email mike.sherburn@kent.gov.uk.

What's stopping you?

WOMEN interested in working for themselves, or who have started trading in the last 12 months, are invited to a free one-day event organised by Business Link.

This is the second year of the What's Stopping You? event.

The group's Janice Sandwell said: "These are tough times so we want to support women who are thinking of starting a business or who recently started trading. We can offer advice and guidance on working for yourself."

The event, supported by the South East England Development Agency, includes four seminars.

It is on Thursday, November 6, at the Ramada Hotel, Maidstone, starting 9.30 am. For details, visit www.whatsstoppingyouevents.co.uk or call 01732 878007.

A quality experience

ORGANISATIONS throughout the South East are being encouraged to enter high-quality work placement schemes into the National Council for Work Experience Awards.

Director Heather Collier said: "Students who take part in high-quality work placements are more likely to return to the host area after graduating, rather than migrating to London."

Employers, students and careers advisers can nominate organisations. For further information and to enter, visit www.workexperience.org/awards.

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Wayne Hemingway on the Thames Gateway at Construction Expo 2008

Taskforce will raise our Gateway profile

■ BY TONY PATEY

THE county's businesses are going to have a higher profile and bigger say in the massive £9 billion Thames Gateway project, one of the largest planned regenerations in Western Europe.

A dedicated taskforce has been set up by the regional chamber of commerce to monitor information, get involved with the roll-out of the project and reap commercial benefits from opportunities.

Rochester-based Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce – which covers the whole project region – has launched the Regeneration and Renewal Group to get to grips with the project.

Chief executive Tracey Manley said: "It is crucial that the business community has as much information as possible concerning current and future regeneration and renewal projects and has an opportunity to influence the decision-making process."

"The chamber strongly believes that businesses within the region should have opportunities to benefit from and get involved with these projects."

"The Gateway is a great place to invest, work and live and has huge potential."

"One of the biggest determining factors of the success of the Gateway will be how regeneration and renewal projects are promoted and implemented."

"How these projects are carried out and their success will have a significant impact on the region's businesses and the individuals who live in, work in or visit the area."

Policies are already in place at central and regional government levels. For example, the Thames Gateway Partnership has identified Kent Thameside and Medway as strategic locations for resource allocation, and Swale and Sittingbourne have been identified as urban renewal areas.

And the news also comes in the wake of the launch of the joint economic development investment plan by the South East's three regional development agencies, including the



REGENERATION: A new taskforce will help local businesses make the most of Thames Gateway opportunities (Seeda).

South East England Development Agency (Seeda).

This gives a coherent, joined-up investment plan for the Thames Gateway project for the first time.

The new group will be made up of companies already members of the chamber and will generate communication and discussion.

Tasks will include collating up-to-date information from private and public sector bodies about regeneration projects in the region now and in the future, circulating it to local businesses, consulting on issues and voicing any concerns to landowners and public sector organisations.

It will also create and run a regeneration

and renewal page on the chamber's website and organise regular events to discuss findings.

It also aims to meet project generation boards Swale Forward, Medway Renaissance and Kent Thameside to obtain information about current and future projects, and meet leading landowners, developers and businesses in the Gateway to identify major developments, trends and issues.

The group is launching initial findings at an invitation-only event on Thursday, November 20, at Bluewater.

Various key sector speakers will set out what the Gateway will mean for local businesses and opportunities for tendering.

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Picture AIRWAVES DUCATI



WHEELY HAPPY: Shane Byrne (right) celebrates a double victory in the final round of the series at Brands Hatch

Shakey's double delight

SUPERBIKES

BRITISH Superbike champion Shane Byrne finished the season in style with a double victory in front of his home crowd at Brands Hatch, in his final British Superbike race.

With his move to the World Superbike Championship for next season sealed and his second British superbike title already wrapped up, Byrne was under no pressure and duly delivered his ninth and tenth wins of the season.

It was a perfect weekend for the Sheppey rider as he stormed to pole position in qualifying with a time two

tenths of a second faster than anyone else.

Byrne briefly lost the lead on the opening lap of race one, but regained the advantage on the following lap where he stayed until the chequered flag, finishing ahead of Cal Crutchlow and James Ellison.

Race two proved a much more difficult challenge and he had to fight his way back from fifth place.

He had to use all his skill to close down a two-second gap

and pass race leader Leon Haslam on the final lap for victory.

The two wins, plus a third and fifth place for team-mate Leon Camier, secured a record fourth team title for Airwaves Ducati.

An overjoyed Byrne said: "I don't know if there are any words to describe how I am feeling right now."

"This marked my final ride for the Airwaves Ducati team, my final ride at my home circuit, and my final ride in BSB, so to come away with a double win is fantastic. I couldn't be happier."

Sheerness East fall to rising Phoenix

SHEERNESS East suffered a heavy defeat in the Kent County League Premier Division, going down 7-3 away to Phoenix Sports.

It was East's eighth consecutive loss of a so far miserable season.

In Division 1, AFC Sheppey romped to a 3-0 victory away to Staplehurst & Monarchs, but there were mixed results for Swale sides in the Kent Junior Cup.

In the derby game in Group B, Upchurch knocked out County League opponents Woodstock Park, beating them 2-1 at home, while Swale United join them in the hat for the next round after a 6-1 rout of FC Cobra.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson reveals Andrew Crofts may leave at the end of the season

Rugby team falters against Ashford

SITTINGBOURNE suffered a 16-8 defeat away to Ashford in Kent 1, a result that dropped them to eighth place in the table.

Sittingbourne failed to build on the previous week's win at home to Dartfordians and suffered their third defeat of the season.

Their next Kent 1 fixture takes place on October 25 when they host Cranbrook at the Grove.

Cranbrook, who beat Old Gravesendians 31-23 at the Tomlin Ground on Saturday, are second in the table behind leaders Medway on points difference, having won four of their five games so far.

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SHOCK DEFEAT: Sittingbourne threw away a two-goal lead and are still looking for their first home win of the season after late goals condemned them to a 3-2 defeat



Picture CHRIS RECAN

Brickies can't avoid the hometown blues

FOOTBALL

BY YOURSWALE REPORTER

Sittingbourne 2

Akhazzan 6, Richmond 33

Dulwich Hamlet 3

Plummer 60, Hamici 82, 86



Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Milton (Bradbrook 54), Manners (Milton 71)

SITTINGBOURNE continue to look like world-beaters away from home and panel-beaters when they have to play at Bourne Park.

The Brickies have collected just one point from five home games this season, yet their form on the road (five wins out of five) means they remain on the fringe of the play-off zone.

Yet once again the curse of Bourne Park struck as they managed to blow a 2-0 lead against Dulwich, a result that dropped them to eighth in Ryman Division 1 South.

There was little sign of the trauma to come when Sittingbourne took a sixth-minute lead.

Hicham Akhazzan flicked Richard Brady's cross past Hamlet's keeper Jamie Lunan and the home side should have doubled their lead 15 minutes later.

Akhazzan and Colin Richmond linked well to play in Brady, whose attempted curler was clawed away by Lunan.

Brickies keeper Matt Read was forced to tip over a fierce shot from Laurent Hamici, but otherwise Dulwich struggled to create chances and grew frustrated as they repeatedly strayed offside.

In the 33rd minute it was 2-0, when Richmond turned in Brady's cross and Sittingbourne coasted to the interval.

However, the visitors were a side transformed after the half-time break, putting the Brickies' defence under almost constant pressure.

The Sittingbourne backline, which manager Gary Abbott had hoped to bolster with new signings Rio Alderton and Jak Haverson, finally buckled on the hour when a partially cleared corner fell to Daryl Plummer, who halved the deficit.

Hamlet continued to pour forward, with

Hamici skewing a shot wide and Scott Simpson seeing an effort cleared off the line.

Although Richmond found the side netting for the home side the equaliser arrived eight minutes from time, when Ben Payne mistimed a challenge on Plummer in the area.

The referee awarded and Hamici scored from the spot.

Four minutes later Dulwich completed their comeback from a free-kick just inside the Sittingbourne half.

The ball was floated towards Hamici, who turned brilliantly and fired the winner past Read to complete a comeback that had looked impossible at half-time.

Failure to deliver the goods costs Norton

FOOTBALL

BY FRED ATKINS

West Wickham 4

Wadey 25, King 30, 38 Askew 60

Norton Sports 0

NORTON Sports manager Ben Taylor will want to forget Saturday for more than one reason.

"My missus is expecting so I couldn't play," he said, after he was forced to stand on the sidelines with his mobile phone, waiting for a call that never came. "And I don't really know where to start with what went wrong. It just didn't happen for us."

With keeper Chris Smith likely to be out for up to a month, Taylor drafted in his old Sittingbourne colleague Steve Williams, but the experienced stopper had an afternoon to forget.

"Willow put his hands up, he could have done better with a couple of the goals," Taylor said. "That didn't help. But the defence was bad, the midfield was bad and the strikers were bad."

Tommy Price went close early on with a header, but Norton fell behind in the 25th-minute against their county league opponents to a goal from Adam Wadey and Matt King doubled their advantage five minutes later.

King struck again to make it 3-0 at the break and Taylor's half-time team talk would not have made for pleasant family listening.

"I went round the dressing room and asked



Picture: IOR (APPO)

DISAPPOINTING: Norton's defence (in red) were unable to cope as they crashed out of the Kent Senior Trophy

Norton Sports starting XI



Subs used: Slatter, Armstrong, Taylor

everyone of them what was wrong. It's difficult when you go to these places. There are three or four games going on at once, there's a box dressing room and there's a tree hanging over the pitch, but that's no excuse.

"They played 3-5-2 and over ran our midfield. They just seemed to want it more. It was a really weird feeling – I was speechless really."

Taylor's industrial-strength team talk saw a moderate second half improvement, but a tactical reshuffle that nullified the threat of Wickham's key midfielder simply created problems elsewhere on the pitch and Askew made it 4-0 on the hour.

The only consolation for Taylor was the way his side kept fighting: "Even in the 90th-minute they were still battling."

But whatever happens off the pitch, Taylor intends to play against Sevenoaks on Saturday: "I've said to my missus I'm playing come what may. I'm overruling her!"

FOOTBALL



Picture: IOR (APPO)

LEARNING CURVE: Gary Abbott hopes his players learn from their mistakes on Saturday

Abbott 'gutted' as players let lead slip

GARY Abbott saw Saturday's 3-2 loss to Dulwich unfold in front of him like a cheap horror movie.

"I called it at half-time," the Sittingbourne manager told Yoursware. "We were 2-0 up and I said they're going to smash it. I said don't dive in and what happened? Joe Dowley dived in, they get a corner and all of a sudden it's 2-1. As soon as we conceded I said 'we're going to get beaten here'."

Abbott's frustration was compounded by the fact the Bricksies' first-half display was so impressive. "I honestly don't think any side in the division can live with us when we play like that, we can pass our way through anyone," he said.

"But we've got to learn. We did exactly the same at Leatherhead. I know the players are young, but you can't keep saying that. Sooner or later something's got to be done and I'll do it if necessary."

Losing Tom Bradbrook to an ankle injury didn't help.

"When he went off we kept trying to smash it as if he was still there. That's not what I'm about, I like to play it on the floor," Abbott said. "And we had three or four experienced players out there which makes it even more disappointing."

His assistant manager Richard Brady was one of them. "We had words afterwards," Abbott admitted. "I know he's my assistant and he gets us goals, but when I was a centre forward I'd help my defenders out at corners by getting in front of the man I was marking when the ball came back in."

"He was always on the halfway line and he always had an excuse. I know he likes to play off the last man, but he's got to help his defenders. You've got to defend from the front."

Even allowing for the number of errors Sittingbourne made, Abbott still finds it difficult to believe his side lost.

"I keep looking at the scoreline and wondering how we didn't get something – I'm gutted," he said.

LEAGUE TABLES

(before Tuesday night's games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Kingstonian	9	7	2	0	+16	23
2 Cray Wanderers	10	6	3	1	+7	21
3 Folkestone Invicta	10	6	2	2	+6	20
4 Metropolitan Police	11	4	5	2	+7	17
5 Walton & Hersham	10	5	2	3	+2	17
6 Ashford Town	11	4	4	3	+7	16
7 Merstham	9	5	1	3	+1	16
8 Sittingbourne	10	5	1	4	-2	16
9 Leatherhead	11	4	3	4	-4	15
10 Dulwich Hamlet	9	4	2	3	+3	14
11 Godalming Town	9	4	1	4	+6	13
12 Eastbourne Town	10	4	1	5	+1	13
13 Walton Casuals	10	3	3	4	-4	12
14 Burgess Hill Town	9	3	2	4	+3	11
15 Fleet Town	8	2	4	2	-1	10
16 Whyteleafe	8	3	1	4	-1	10
17 Chipstead	9	2	4	3	-5	10
18 Worthing	8	2	3	3	-4	9
19 Croydon Athletic	9	2	1	6	-5	7
20 Whitstable Town	11	2	1	8	-18	7
21 Crowborough Ath	9	1	3	20	-5	6
22 Corinthian-Casuals	10	1	3	6	-10	6

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

1 Holmesdale	9	7	1	1	+11	22
2 Hythe Town	7	6	1	0	+14	19
3 Tunbridge Wells	7	5	0	2	+1	15
4 Herne Bay	8	4	1	3	+6	13
5 Greenwich Borough	9	4	1	4	-2	13
6 Faversham Town	7	4	0	3	+8	12
7 Erith & Belvedere	5	4	0	1	+2	12
8 Norton Sports	9	4	0	5	-6	12
9 Slade Green	9	3	2	4	0	11
10 Deal Town	9	3	2	4	-1	11
11 Sevenoaks Town	8	3	2	3	-1	11
12 Beckenham Town	11	3	2	6	-2	11
13 Erith Town	6	3	0	3	+5	9
14 VCD Athletic	6	3	0	3	+2	9
15 Croydon	7	3	0	4	0	9
16 Lordswood	6	0	0	6	-15	0
17 Sporting Bengal	7	0	0	7	-22	0

FIXTURES (Saturday, October 18):

Kent League Premier Division – Faversham Town v Slade Green, Norton Sports v Sevenoaks Town

Imminent signing to boost Town squad ahead of Saturday kick-off

FOOTBALL

FAVERSHAM Town joint-manager Justin Luchford hopes to unveil a new signing in time for Saturday's Kent League Premier Division fixture with Slade Green at Salters Lane.

"It's a possibility by the end of the week," Luchford told Yoursware. "It's not because we're looking to change our style or because players have been underperforming, but we need to strengthen our squad."

Luchford wouldn't be drawn on his potential new signing's position, but confirmed he had experience at a higher level.

Town were without a game on Saturday, but a number of first-teamers turned out for the reserves, who were beaten 4-1 at home by Holmesdale in Division 2.

Striker Damian Able scored Town's goal. "It backfired a bit because we lost," Luchford admitted. "But it was an exercise really, I wasn't too fussed about the result. We needed to keep them ticking over because we aren't training on Tuesday night because the reserves have got a game."

The Lilywhites' only injury worry for the Slade Green game is Dave Soutan.

"He's got a slight toe problem," Luchford said. "But he thinks he'll be all right – we'll just have to wait for the physio to give him the all clear on Thursday."

Slade Green are one of the few strictly amateur sides left in the Kent League, but Luchford is wary of their threat.

He said: "They had a good result last week against Slade Green, who are always a difficult side to beat. They'll be coming here in high spirits and looking to get a result."



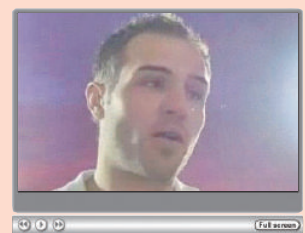
Picture: IOR (APPO)

NEW FACE: Faversham boss Justin Luchford is hoping to add to his squad before this Saturday

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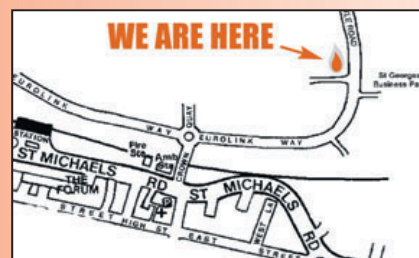


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